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POP FOR HEALTH

Gummies and fizzies for nutrient-rich wellness?

The Indian nutraceutical market is booming. Many are worried it piggybacks on poor science

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Tayyip Erdogan: Turkey's republican monarch

PROFILES » PAGE 16

Indigenous woollen rugs turned into shoes for Telangana farmers

SOUTH » PAGE 9

Dhoni's Super Kings and Hardik's Titans face off in IPL final

SPORT » PAGE 18

A new House, again in red sandstone

New Parliament's aesthetic, however, contrasts with that of the older circular structure, which too was initially conceived as a triangular design

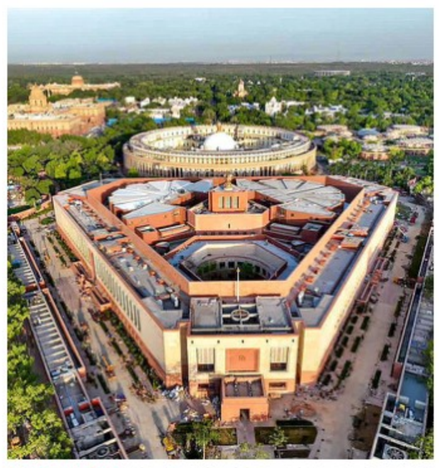
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The new triangular Parliament House, built to fit the three-sided plot of land on which it stands, faces the old circular structure, both dressed in red sandstone for continuity. Their interiors though, are a study in contrast. Noida-based sculptor Ram Sutar's 16-foot-high bronze Mahatma Gandhi sits in between, the silent arbitrator between the past and the present.

In place of the "disappearing dome" over the central hall, visible to visitors only once they step in, the new building is flat-roofed and fitted with a golden spire, much like those in temples and gurdwaras.

Where the old building, opened in 1927, had wooden panelling and high ceilings, the new four-storey structure has lights embedded into ceilings of gold. Peacock feather motifs are emblazoned on both the ceiling and carpet in the Lok Sabha, and lotus motifs in the Rajya Sabha. The tradition of red upholstery, carpeting and wall cladding for the Upper House and green for the Lower continues.

Now, there is no central hall that was used for joint parliamentary sessions a few times a year – a space that also turned into a lounge for members to gather and dissolve party differences. In its place is an open-to-the-sky courtyard and three cafes as a neutral ground.



Layout plan: The new building takes on the triangular layout, just as British architect Herbert Baker had envisaged for the old one. PTI

With any large project, there is bound to be some controversy. With the new Parliament, it's the 22 parties boycotting the inauguration, which will see a puja, a *havan* (fire ritual) and the installation of a *sengol* (sceptre) behind the Lok Sabha Speaker's chair.

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24 more Ministers join Siddaramaiah team

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 23 MLAs and AICC secretary N.S. Boseraju took oath as Ministers in the Congress government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Raj Bhavan on Saturday.

The allocation of portfolios is likely to be officially announced on Sunday. The delay is said to be on account of several Ministers being unhappy with the portfolios assigned. Though a list was doing the rounds – which showed Mr. Siddaramaiah keeping Finance, among others, and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar being assigned Major and Medium Irrigation and Bengaluru City Development – there was no official confirmation till midnight.

With Saturday's expansion, the Cabinet has reached its full strength of 34. The MLAs who took oath as Ministers on Saturday were: H.K. Patil, Krishna Byre Gowda, N. Cheluvarayaswamy, K. Venkatesh, H.C. Mahadevappa, Eshwar Khandre, K.N. Rajanna, Dinesh Gundu Rao, Sharanabasappa Darshanapur, Shivananda Patil, Thimappur Ramappa Balappa, S.S. Mallikarjun, Shivaraj Tangadagi, Sharanaprakash Rudrappa Patil, Mankal Vaidya, Laxmi Hebbalkar, Rahim Khan, D. Sudhakar, Santosh S. Lad, Byrathi Suresh, Madhu Bangarappa, M.C. Sudhakar, and B. Nagendra.

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Narendra Modi with State government representatives at the eighth Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog. PTI

PM calls upon CMs to work as 'Team India'

Devesh K. Pandey
Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing the eighth Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog on Saturday, said the Centre and the States would have to work as "Team India" to realise the objective of a "*Viksit Bharat* (Developed India)" in 2047.

The Prime Minister chaired the meeting which was attended by Chief Ministers and Lieutenant-Governors representing 19 States and six Union Territories.

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NEARBY

BBMP to seek more subsidy for Indira Canteens

BENGALURU
Pocket-friendly Indira Canteens, which are dying a slow death, are set to get a new lease of life as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will soon float a fresh tender. The BBMP is also planning to seek additional subsidy as prices of raw materials have shot up.
» Page 2

Rains push up prices of vegetables

BENGALURU
The pre-monsoon rains in the vegetable growing areas of Bengaluru have caused the prices of vegetables to shoot up by ₹5-₹30. As hailstorms also battered crops, the quality of vegetables has taken a hit, thereby leading to a supply crunch in the markets. The prices of flowers which are regularly bought have also gone up this week. » Page 6

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MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

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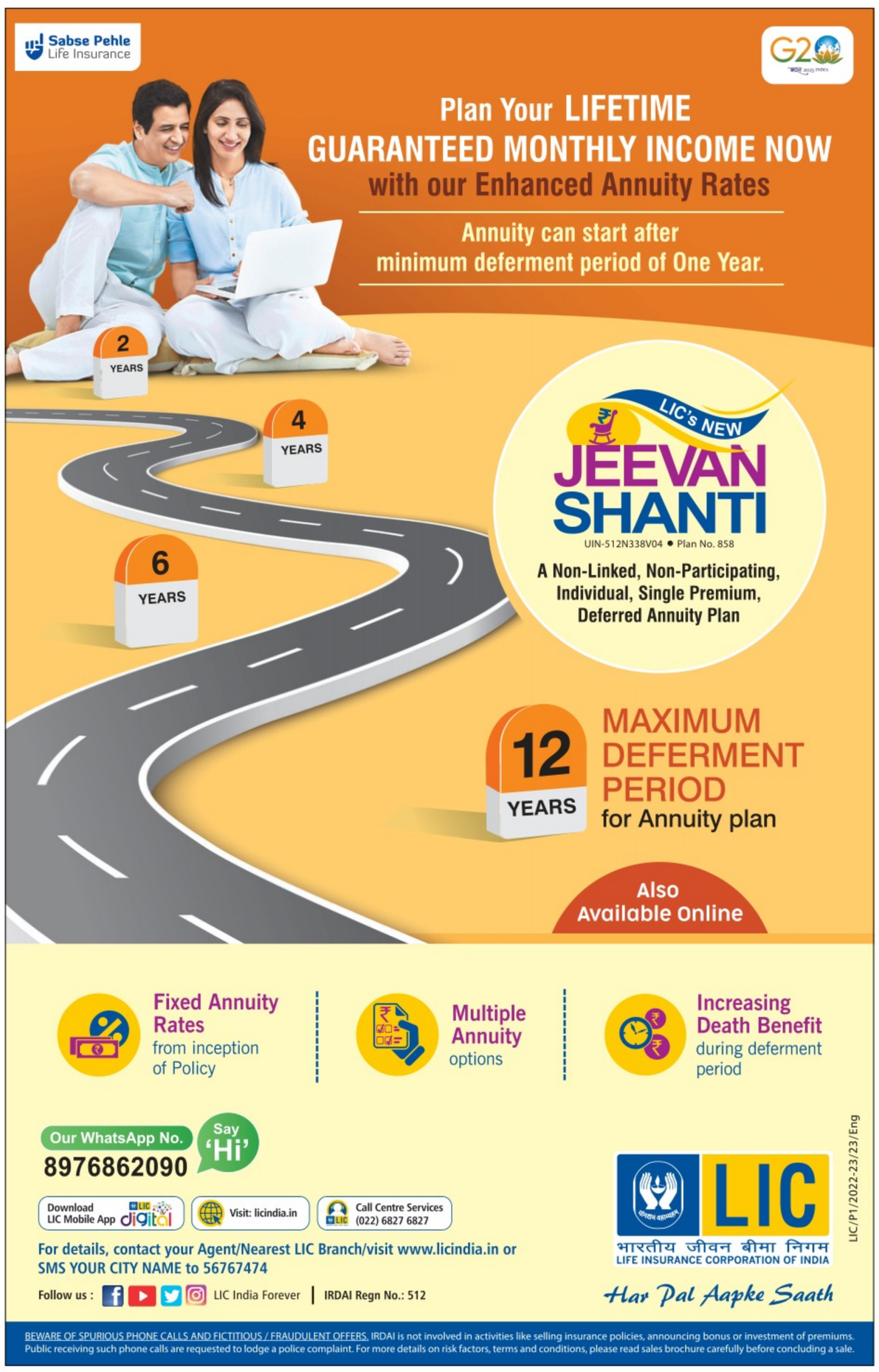
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The day begins: Dawn breaks over Keechankuppam, a fishing hamlet in Nagapattinam, where mechanised boats have been moored to the shore during the 61-day fishing ban in the Bay of Bengal.

Off the hook

A fishing hamlet in Nagapattinam is mostly quiet with the 61-day ban on deep-sea fishing in place, but there is no rest for some

B. Velankanni Raj
velankanniraj.b@thehindu.co.in

The sunrise off Keechankuppam fishing hamlet silhouetting the harbour in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu spelt a certain quietude. It was the 39th day of the 61-day moratorium on fishing along the eastern coast. This two-month ban on deep-sea trawling is intended to allow the ocean to breathe and breed life. Small boats can continue to venture into the shallow waters for fishing returning with minimal catch.

The annual ban on trawling also gives the fishermen time away from the sea; time for rest and leisure and a game of cards; time to mend their fishing nets in all hues of turquoise. Their boats are sent off to the yard for annual repairs, a lick of paint, or an overhaul.

But, for the fisherwomen, ban or no ban, work never ends. In the Keechankuppam fishing harbour, fisherwomen clamour for the shallow-water catch. They stack aluminium utensils with fish, take a "share-auto" to the main road, and go street-to-street selling the catch.

Some of the fisherwomen also take up the removal of invasive shrub *Prosopis juliflora* (*seemai karuvelam*) under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to keep the household running.

The fishing ban, which began on April 15, will come to an end on June 14.

Text by P.V. Srividya

Small scale: Fishermen set off on their fibre-boats to bring in the catch from shallow waters off Nagapattinam.

Biding their time: Mechanised boats stand idle at the fishing harbour in Nagapattinam.

BBMP to seek additional subsidy for Indira Canteens, set to float new tender

Marginal changes in the menu under way as the pocket-friendly canteens are preparing to get a new lease of life with the Congress back in power

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Pocket-friendly Indira Canteens, which are dying a slow death, are set to get a new lease of life as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will soon float a fresh tender. The BBMP is also planning to seek additional subsidy as prices of raw materials have shot up.

While the BBMP administrator has approved the proposal, the tender will be invited after securing a final nod from the State government.

The canteens that serve three meals a day at ₹5 and ₹10 were launched in 2017 during the Congress regime. However, over the years, particularly after the BJP took over, the quality began to dwindle, even as payments to the caterers are pending. Many canteens faced water woes after Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) cut off supply owing to non-payment of bills.

The Indira Canteen at Ganganagar in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Cheftalk Food Services Pvt. Ltd., Rewards Pvt. Ltd., and Adambya Chetana are currently providing meals to the canteens.

Of the 175 canteens in the city, 163 are currently operating. According to the data provided by the BBMP, six canteens in RR Nagar zone and three in south zone are shut. The State government earlier provided 30% subsidy to the BBMP. In 2017-18 and 2018-19, the then government allocated ₹100 crore and ₹145 crore, respectively. The BBMP allotted ₹60 crore in the 2022-23 Budget as the BJP government after 2019 did not allocate funds. On the other hand, the number of takers has also dipped. With Siddaramaiah back as Chief Minister, he has now directed officials to revive the canteens across the State.

Currently, food at the canteens costs ₹55.3 for three meals, of which the customer pays ₹25 and the rest is borne by the civic body as the government had not allocated funds. In 2022, when the BBMP was in talks with ISKCON to cater food, they quoted ₹78 to serve food three times a day. According to sources in the BBMP, at present, bidders may quote anywhere between ₹80 and ₹90 and the government's 30% subsidy formula will not be sufficient. Hence, it has decided to put up a proposal for a hike.

Tushar Giri Nath, Chief Commissioner, BBMP, talking to *The Hindu* said the cost of the meals will go up in the tender process as prices have surged. "We will seek additional subsidy to reduce the financial burden on the civic body. After deliberation with the State government, the percentage of increase will be finalised."

Mr. Giri Nath further said although the administrator has given his nod, the same has to be finalised by the government. The tender proposal will be studied by the Ministers concerned before granting permission. On asking whether price rise will be passed on to the beneficiaries, he said at present, there was no such proposal with the BBMP, but it would adhere to the directions of the government.

K.V. Trilok Chandra, Special Commissioner (Health), BBMP, said discussions on marginal changes in the menu are underway. While the civic body is planning to increase the quantity of food on the platter, there may be slight changes in the menu. The BBMP aims to provide healthy and nutritious food to the people.

According to the menu prepared in 2017, the canteens serve idli, puliyogare, kharabath, vangibath, lemon rice, rava kichadi with coconut chutney, tomato gravy, mint chutney, and kesaribath for breakfast. Rice, sambar prepared with different vegetables, curd rice, and pulao are served for lunch and dinner. Breakfast is served at ₹5 and lunch and dinner at ₹10.

Indira Canteens

Total number	175
Operational	163
Price (present)	
Breakfast	₹5
Lunch	₹10
Price fixed by caterers	
(Present)	₹55.30 / 3 meals
Cost to beneficiaries	₹25

Allocation so far

2017-18	₹100 crore	by State
2018-19	₹145 crore	by State
2022-23	₹60 crore	by BBMP

Present caterers
Cheftalk Food Services Pvt. Ltd.
Rewards Pvt. Ltd.

Musical tribute to composer Mysore Vasudevacharya on birth anniversary

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A series of 10 concerts will take place on Sunday. They will be of up to 40 minutes duration each and will be rendered by AIR graded artistes

A slew of musicians will render concerts and pay tribute to composer Mysore Vasudevacharya to mark his 159th birth anniversary on Sunday.

The venue is the house where the legendary composer lived in Mysuru and the programme is being conducted by the Mysuru Music Fraternity, in association with "Shri Purandaradaasar Trust", Chennai.

A release said that the legendary composer was fondly addressed as "Abhinava Tyagarja" during the later part of his illustrious career and he lived in Mysuru up to 1953 promoting Carnatic music.

"The house in which he lived and served in the city has of late become a centre of cultural activities and has hosted concerts by artistes from across the globe," the release added.

While there were two concerts on Saturday, a series of 10 concerts will take place on Sunday, which is the day of his birth as per the solar calendar, the release said. The 10 concerts will be of up to 40 minutes duration each and will be rendered by AIR graded artistes.

The schedule is as follows: Varalakshmi Ananadakumar (9.20 a.m.); Hiranmayee Srinidhi (10.05); Srihari Bhat (10.50); Kovaladi Archana (11.35); Sangita Tharanathan (12.20 p.m.); Keshavachandra (Flute, 2.30); Santosh Subramanian (3.15); Manasa Nayana (4.00); Calcutta V.N. Shankar (4.45) and Vasudha Keshav (5.30 p.m).

Woman dies in elephant attack at Anekal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 48-year-old tribal woman who was herding cattle in Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) limits at Anekal was trampled to death by a wild elephant. The deceased woman identified as Nagamma hailed from the Hakki Pikki community.

According to forest officials, the woman was herding cattle inside the jungle at around 2.30 p.m. It is normal for the community members to venture inside the forest. The officials said she encountered the elephant and may have tried to escape. The pachyderm ran into her and launched an attack, trampling her to death. "The woman was dead when other tribesmen arrived at the spot. The tribals frequently encounter elephants here, but this is an unfortunate incident," an official said.

Plaint against insurance firm for misusing name of NIMHANS director

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The South Division cybercrime police have registered an FIR against an unknown person for misusing the name of the Director of NIMHANS to promote their brand.

Based on the complaint by S. Shankar Narayan Rao, Registrar, NIMHANS, the South Division cybercrime police have taken up a case against the unknown person charging them under section 66C (identity theft) and 66D (cheating by impersonation) of the IT Act on May 24 for further investigations.

Mr. Rao, in his complaint, said the accused had a website under the name "National Health Insurance" and copied the photograph and profile details of Pratima Murthy to be used as Managing Director of the firm. They were used illegally to promote the insurance scheme which offered a wide variety of schemes ranging from physical and mental health, the police said.

Three arrested for killing rowdy over drunken brawl

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The K.P. Agarahara police on Saturday arrested three persons for allegedly hacking a 23-year-old rowdy to death over a drunken brawl on Monday.

The accused, identified as Naveen K., 28, having multiple cases, and his two associates Hemanth Kumar, 20, and Dio Kumar, 21, had invited Sagar, 23, for a party.

The accused, Sagar, a rowdy sheeter having multiple cases pending against him, had a liquor party with them, and later a verbal duel started over getting more liquor.

In the melee, Naveen and two others attacked Sagar with lethal weapons and escaped. The profusely bleeding Sagar was taken to Victoria hospital where he succumbed, said the police.

Judicial custody

Based on the complaint by Yashodha, mother of Sagar, the K.P. Agarahara police took up a case of murder and tracked down Naveen and two others. They have been remanded to judicial custody and police are investigating.

Netizens laud man's selfless act of clearing floodwater at Indiranagar

Dushyant Dubey probed the choked inlets and unclogged the waste, clearing water from the road

Shrushti Mahajan
BENGALURU

A 31-year-old man has emerged as an example of a selfless act by clearing floodwater on the roads in Indiranagar when it rained a few days ago. Netizens are appreciating his act on multiple social media platforms.

As the inlets on either side of a four-lane 80 feet road at Indiranagar were choked due to fallen leaves and waste after it rained on May 21, water started accumulating on the road, causing inundation. Commuters moving on the stretch waded through the water with difficulty and cursed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). While a few videographed the situation of the road to put it on social media,

Dushyant Dubey has been living in Bengaluru for the last eight years. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dushyant Dubey swung into action to clear the water.

Mr. Dubey, who works in an automobile company, holding a stick, first probed the inlets and found choking at eight inlets. He then began the process of unclogging and removing the waste. Mr. Dubey, who has been living in Bengaluru for the last eight years, originally hails from Ahmedabad in Gujarat. Holding the stick in one hand, he pulled out waste like plastic, leaves, branches, automobile parts, medical waste, silt, and others.

A major root cause for choking was the absence of inlet covers. The inlets help channel rainwater falling on the road into storm-water drain. The caps of at least five inlets were missing, and the BBMP had not replaced them with new ones. The waste that entered through the inlets went inside, blocking the drain. He toiled for about 45 minutes single-handedly to clear the water. As he blindly placed his hand inside the drains, Mr. Dubey suffered cuts and bruises.

Social work

Mr. Dubey, talking to *The Hindu*, said, "Instead of always airing complaints about civic problems, citizens sometimes have to act. This would make the city [a] better place to live."

He has been involved in social work for many years. The video of him clearing the water has now gone viral on social media.

Classifieds

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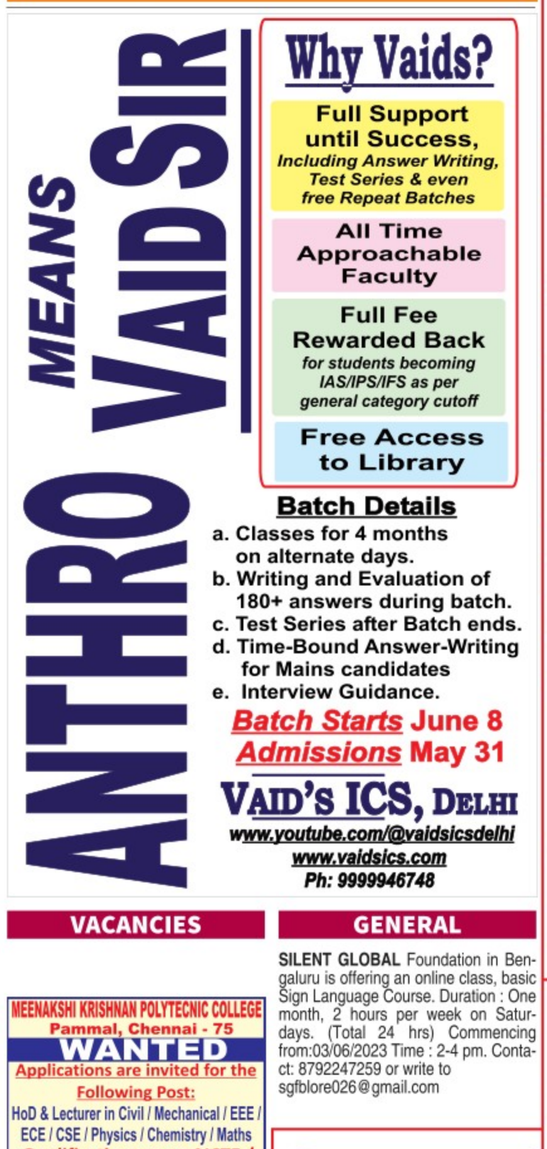
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Work goes on: Women drying the fish caught on small boats during the two-month ban on trawling.

To market: Fisherwomen travel by "share-autos" to sell the catch from shallow waters.

Getting spruced up: The lean period for mechanised boats is used to undertake repairs or give them a coat of paint.

Play time: Children of fisherfamilies working on their volleyball skills during the 61-day fishing ban, which also overlaps with their summer vacation. Many of the girls are naturally athletic and good swimmers.

Summer lull: An aerial view of the fishing harbour in Nagapattinam.

Picking the best: Women wait to buy the catch brought in by small boats.

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VANNIYAKULA KSHATHRIYA good looking girl, 32, MS(IITM), Ph.D(UK) working as Assistant Professor in a Central Institute in Bangalore, Seeks well settled, tall, fair groom with professional Masters / Ph.D degree, working in Bangalore with minimum salary 20L PA. Contact : 94422 20103, 82488 25952

HINDU NADAR 32/M.B.B.S., M.D., Rich Family (500 Cr.) Industrialist, only daughter seeks any doctors. Contact: Mrs. S.P.Revathi – 9884300680

MCH IIYR, 28, 5ft 8inch, rohini seek veg MD/MS/SS groom from Chennai. Parents Brahmin&Pillai. 6383189302

MUDALIYAR, TAMIL, Chennai, Dec. 1992, 165CM, Doctor PG–Pediatrics, pursuing fellowship in CMC, Vellore seeks suitable alliance from well settled family–Doctors, Engineers–MS/MBA, CAs. CELL 9444841350

26 YEARS /165cm Doctor,from Chennai Joining Neurology residency in June 2023 at New Jersey USA. Seeks Medical Doctor Groom doing Residency/Fellowship in USA. Hindu,Tamil OBC preferred Whatsapp/Call 9677026459

FAIR, TALL, Good looking MS(O&G), Senior Resident, BC, Sri Karuneegar, Star–Sadhayam, Affluent Doctor Family seeks Doctor Groom, BC, within Tamilnadu. Contact–9843086263.

MBBS PG own hospital 36 fair MBC want any cast any doctor medical field only divorce ok 9385665734 BHP

TAMIL VISWAKARMA Govt Doctor Bride MD (GM) 31/167 Fair Vishagam Seeks Doctor / Engineer / Govt. Officer Bridegroom Ct : 94459 64285

HINDI

LOOKING FOR a suitable groom for atheist medico girl, 37 years, Assistant Professor in a reputed Medical College.For details, contact +91–9997020526

SEEKING ALLIANCE for our daughter, fair, 32, 5 ft 4 inch, BE, MNC 25 LPA, Seeks good looking Unmarried/ Divorced Groom from Elite college, Age below 37, Preferably Hindi. 6374539039

MALAYALAM

HINDU GIRL, (SC) Doctor (MD), 33 yrs, working Chennai, Income 14-16 lakhs, Seeks alliance, Ph: 9446570429

TAMIL

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THE HINDU
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✔ **RC CHRISTIAN,** Vanniyar, Age 27/160cm, Girl, Fair, Good looking, B.Tech/ IT Professional, Seeks suitable Groom, Preferably IT Professionals (India / Abroad). Contact : 94430 73908. Email : rj_xavier@yahoo.com

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 24 y, MBBS, Fair Seeks Suitable Groom. Any District. Ph: 7824023030

TAMIL CHRISTIAN Nadar Bride 25 years, Pious, Fair, BE., MBA (Fin), MNC employed from noble family. Contact: jaycees2007@rediffmail.com

35 PILLAI B.Com MBA Anusham Divorcee issueless seeks suitable groom 9094020665

SAIVA PILLAI 27 / 157 B.Tech MSc. Working in UK, Johnson & Johnson / 40 laks P.A. Seeks Groom Working at U.K Europe & India. Caste No Bar. Ct : 91 76390 88446

GROOM PROPOSALS invited for Nov 1998/165 cms, Fair & beautiful girl with good family values, Completed MS and working in USA from Vanniya Kula Kshatriya, Tamil boys in late 20's working in USA (Preferrable) / NRI's. Height above 175 cms, respectable family with good habits. Email: ezhilvijay7472@gmail.com (mob: 9791156760) with photo and horoscopes.

HINDU/SC.AD, 27/5'2" MCA, TA @ Infosys, 10L/p.a. Simmam/Magam. Same Caste Groom from Chennai. 9840365908

MUDALIAR GIRL BE 27/155 Fair, Pooradam, from good family background, Bengaluru seeks suitable Hindu Groom with high moral values. Ct: 7975421774

YADAVA 34/163 BE, ECE Emp chennai Divorcee seeks caring clean habit Hindu groom. Caste no bar. 9487153988

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. 9345855735

SAIVAPILLAI TIRUNELVELI, 24, Good Looking, B.E., Comp.Science, Employed seeks suitable Groom (India /Abroad).Ct:8870504498/ 9486852992

RC NADAR 27, BE, IT, 165cm, Income 50000, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9380791999

HINDU NADAR 27 B.COM/MBA Fair, Yearly income 7.5L, Employed in Chennai seeks Same caste Employed Groom from Chennai. 9444844884, 9384888889

SAIVA PILLAI Tirunelveli girl 26/165, Punarpoosam/ Mithunam, BE (CS) BITS employed MNC 35 LPA seeks groom from same & allied community age between 27 to 32. Ct: 8072149714/ 6383601807

VANNIYAKULAKSHATRIYA, BUSINESS family, Star Bharani, 28, B.Tech, MBA, Business Associate, MNC seeks well educated, Hindu community groom. 9840447199/ raghasudhan1962@gmail.com

HINDU/TAMIL/DKV/Fair/30/165cm/ BDS, M.Sc., (Fore. Odo)/ not working/Drs.family alliance wanted from:Doctors/Engineers/IAS/Professors/same caste/below-35 India or Europe. Contact No: 9443439526.

PROFESSIONAL /CIVIL SERVICES NCR–based match for Iyer girl Advocate 24 yrs 5ft. 3 in. fair Ayilyam Srivatsa gotra. Father in Central Civil Services mother in Corporate Sector. Only child. Write to appichu99@gmail.com

VOKKALIGA GOUNDER, Bharani, CA/27/ 164/foreign bank, cultured, affluent family in Chennai. Remarriage (void within 2 months). seeks South Indian Hindu match below 32years from OBC/BC/FC. Ct : 9444026269

TAMIL

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HINDU, SC –Adi dravida, BE MBA. Age 30. Female, working in Accenture. Contact at : – (M) 9444991091.

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HINDU SC AD, Poorattathi/ Meenam, Age 34, M.C.A Working in a MNC company, seeking Educated Groom from a good family background, below 38 Years from any Tamil Speaking Community. Contact: 9840107770, 9952930893.

HINDU, ARUNDHATHIYAR- SC, B.E., (E&C) DOB- 25.12.1990 seeks Groom from same Caste. Ct: 9535523396.

HINDU NADAR, 31/165, M.S., V.Fair working in Australia. Pooram, Simmam Raghu Kethu Dosham, Seeks Aboard Groom.CNB.9884022345/9944050546

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Thiruvathirai
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CHRISTIAN, CHARTERED Accountants, 56 years, divorcee, working in Chennai, no child. seeks any Degree holder aged 45 above from a good family divorcee / widow. Ct: 8667387588

HINDU TAMIL Boy 36yrs Punarpoosam/ Kadagam B.Sc., Nautical, Second Officer in Cargo Ship, 18 Lpa, Leagally Divorced, No Issues. Seeks Educated Bride from Cultured Family. Ct: 6369004108

VANNIYAR, 32/172, B.Tech., Marketing Professional in Chennai, Own house. Divorced in one week, no child. Caste no bar except SC & Christian. Looking for bride without Child. Ct: 79049 73547

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 40 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

MARINE ENGINEER Merchant Navy, 28, 167 cm, Hindu, Chothy, Mob-9526432651

A WELL Settled Kerala Viswakarma (Blacksmith) 29/188cm Chothy BE, MBA Running an Engineering Industry in Chennai looking for a Suitable Match. Ct: 8015878921/ 9940168679

WANTED BRIDE Nair (32 years, Visakham) Kalamassery. B.Tech, PGDM. Manager (Foreign Exchange Trading) at HDFC Bank, Ernakulam. Phone 9495307218.

AMBALAVASI YOUTH, B.Com., C.A.(inter) Palakkad, 36 Yrs, handsome, vegetarian, non-alcoholic, God-fearing, employed in a MNC in Kerala, mutually divorced after one month of marriage with no liabilities whatsoever, seeks proposals from parents of ambalavasi or Nair girls (vegetarians only), unmarried or widow / divorcee without any liability. Please contact: 8891637987

TAMIL

TAMIL VISWAKARMA, 37/5.9, B.E., MBA., Chithirai, Kanni, HCL, Chennai, First Marriage seeks Good Looking, Fair Bride. CNB. Ct: 99440 97021

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR Elite Family 33/ 170 Rohini/ Mirugasim M.Sc IT Works in MNC Seeks UG/PG Bride. 9176780777

24 MANAI TELUGU CHETTIAR 30/180 B.Tech, MBA, Bharani, HR Manager @ Infosys, Chennai. Seeks Suitable Educated & Working Bride. 9789056884 / subbudu@gmail.com

ALLIANCE INVITED from a settled Hindu family for our son 36/ 175cms, Good Looking, B.E., M.S (UK), Caste no bar, Prefer Pet Lovers. Contact: 8148796783–Trichy

HINDU DKV Pallan Age 41/167cm Manager Nationalised Bank, Salary 14 Lakhs PA. Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 99652 11259

CASTE NOBAR Hindu Tamil affluent only child SC 30/170cm Handsome MS (CS) Software Engineer Microsoft Seattle USA H1B visa I140 appd seeks suitable Bride (Tamil//Telugu/Malyalam/Kanada) preferably working/studying in USA. Ct: 9445442020/9445006500

HINDU BRAHMIN, 50, Remarriage, State Govt. Employee seeks any Brahmin Bride. Ct: 0461-2338755, Cell No: 89037 24659

PILLAI 29 6 feet MCA IT Punarpusam Chennai left leg & hand weak due to accident seeks suitable caring Mud/Pillai Bride Geetham 9884858014

SOZHIA VELLALA/ Visagam/ 31/5.6/ PG/ Self Employed seeks alliance from Chennai. Send Horoscope/ Family/ Profession/ Contact details to balasai1410@hotmail.com / Mob:92821 11566

KONGU VELLALA Gounder 48yr B.Tech 176cm Inc 6 Lacs Working in Canada Divorcee CNB 9710093999/ 8939691888

27, BE, 175cm, Inc 100000, VIP, Well to do family, Caste no Barseeks Suitable Bride. 9710093999/8939691888

HINDU NADAR MBA IAM, 27yrs, 170cm, Income 200000, Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

HINDU 34/169 PG Working in MNC, as a Manager in US, Seeks professionally Qlfd. bride from decent family. age 28–32 yrs. CNB Ct: 8754486314

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR Divorced 41 Mirugasiridam PhD TNGovt Job Rs1.21Lakh PM 170cm 70kg SlimFair 7904550883

IYER GOUTHAMA Rohini, 14.3.1997, 26 yrs, 168 cms, B. Tech, M.Sc. Genomic Medicine (London, UK), Vegetarian, Settled in Chennai, Affluent business family. Director, Leading Instrumentation company. Seeks Telugu/ Tamil Brahmin girl, professional, aged below 24 years. WhatsApp Parent: 93422 68247

WELL SETTLED, Healthy NRI IT Business Consultant, Looking for Good Looking Female Companion/Soulmate, Hindu age 46, BE, ct: 9487810558

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR),** DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 23.5 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

NADAR 29/178 BE,MS working in USA with clean habits & character reputed family in Chennai,Seeks Goodlooking, Educated Bride from affluent,good family background. Ct:8667206699

Tamil, 32 Y, 185 CM, 98 KG, Lead Position, PGDCA BE, Financial Institution California USA. Seeking Bride working in USA / willing to relocate. Liberal family values preferred. Hindu Vannar. Caste No bar. Ph: +91 9786265786

MUDALIAR 28/170/FAIR MBA Moolam own House Good Family seeks girl from good family. Subcaste OK 9597830845

HINDU KONGU Vellala Gounder 36/183 Sadayam, MBA Job &Business 30L P.A. Working Chennai Upper Middle Class. Suitable Girl any Degree & Any Caste in B.C. Whatsapp: 9360323979

SENGUNDA MUDALIYAR 28, MBBS, 162cm, Income 50000 Seeks Suitable Bride 9710093999/ 8939691888

HINDU NADAR, 40/163, B.Tech, MS, Working Canada, Well Settled Seeks Working Bride. Caste NoBar 8148166505

HINDU NADAR VIP 25, 165cm, MBA, Income 2000000 Seeks Suitable Bride KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

CASTE NOBAR 38/168 Pillai M.Tech MNC Chennai 18Lakhs Aswini star seeks bride 9841151575

MUDALIAR, 19–10–1989/6'2", Thiruvadirai, Mithunam, BE, MBA, IT sector,11 LPA, CHE, Sub caste: No bar, seeks a good looking, grad, employed girl btw 27–30 yr from a good family, 8056119148.

TAMIL

DEVANDRA KULA Vellalar (PL) DOB : 09.03.2000, Mesham / Ashwini , DCE (BE.,) Young Entrepreneur. BPCL Dealer and IOCL Transporter, Own House and Land in Dindigul seeks a Girl with Educated and Good Family Background. Ct.98940 55699

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our son aged 30 years, working and residing in Chennai, an MBA graduate, Saiva Pillai caste, native of Trichy. Contact with details 7358859182

BE from BitsPilani 6'1 Mudaliar Boy born in Nov 91 Wkg in Bangalore Sal 40lacs seeks Bride from same or allied castes 5'4 BE,CA Doctor. 7382620365

HINDU NAIDU 27yrs B.Tech (IT) 182cm, Inc 200000 pm Seeks Fair Good Looking Girl. 9710093999 / 8939691888

MUKKULATHOR– KALLAR – Doctor – M.B.B.S – Swathy 25/175 seeks reputed family bride 9445283563 / 7358298379

MUDALIAR: 29/180, Handsome, B.Tech, MS, Project Manager, USA, 100000 Dollars PA, Affluent Family, Seeks Bride USA / Canada – 9444039984

AYYAVAZHI-NADAR Age 23 / 170cm Viruchigam, Advocate Well Settled Kanyakumari Dis only. Ph:9840075922

PILLAI, 27, tall, handsome Pursuing PG in Australia post BE CSE(PT job) with clean habits seeking fair well educated girl from a reputed family. Sub–sect no bar. WhatAspp 8766289412, Ct 9910386903

HINDU PILLAI 48/162 CM affluent businessman requires bride 38–45. M: 9843949321

HINDU CHETTIAR,AGE 34, BBA LLB own business well settled family seeks suitable bride, caste no bar ct 9884933124

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY Professor, Pondicherry 59yrs well settled, seeks unmarried/widow/Divorces Bride preferably without issues around 40yrs. Caste No Bar. Cont: 9488494925

LOOKING FOR a well educated beautiful Yadava girl, for a well settled Yadava boy, BE.27/180 employed in a senior position. Contact: 94443 25069

SOZHIYA VELLALAR Barani 33 HR Manager 20L PA.Seeks Well Educated Preferably Working Girl. 94435 38652

VANNIYAR SEEKS Bride: 29 Yrs/ 175 Cm/ BE/ Working Chennai & Sister married & having Agri lands & two houses in Tindivanam slightly having little bent in hand Contact: 9486515022 & 6300967708

WANTED A understanding life partner for a smart handsome, Rich, affluent, veg, civil Engineer, divorced, No issues. Caste no bar 34/ 170 own business. Star – magma, 90435 99129

HINDU MUDALIYAR 40, B.com, 175cm, Hyderabad,Inc 250000, 2nd Marriage, Seeks Bride 9710091999/ 8939691884

HINDU MUDALIYAR, MCA, 41,170cm, Inc 60000, Caste no bar, seeks Bride 9710093999/ 8939691888

ADVOCATE M.SC & BA BL (Banking & Co.,) Aug1984 Seeks Graduate Bride Mudaliar & Pillai VegOnly: 7448316569

MUDALIAR 29/177, Handsome,MBBS,MS, Govt Hospital,1200000.PA,Well Settled Family, CNB. 7299576644,7299576666

HINDU SC 33 / 173, Fair and good looking MBBS, MD, Chennai seeks Doctor bride. Caste no bar. Ct:9443342470

SOWRASTRA 37 Hastam Kani 1st Marriage MBA Pvt Manager 1.15L PM, Chennai. Suitable Bride Wanted 9381725577

HINDU SC AD 30 Yrs, 161 Cm, B. Tech, Fair, Own House, Well Settled, Caste No Bar, Seeks Qualify & Good Natured Bride. 8610662429 / 8248498021

SC/AD 32/BE/FAIR Working in Singapore Utharam Good Look,Good Family Caste No Bar Ct:9342289964/ 9487047757

GROOM BRAHMIN TK, Iyengar,46 Arthreya,Pooradam, Asst.Manager MNC Logistics Rs.40000pm Own 2BHK in Chennai Brahmin Subsects No Bar 9962860285

IYER, GARGAYA, Brahacharanam, Avittam, Widower 43/156 11 yrs Child. Partner, Family concern, Own House Ct: 9940469993 / tprakash1@gmail.com

BRAHMIN IYER Boy, Koundinya, Magam, 36 B.E. MNC, Bangalore. Seeks suitable Bride. 9036204255 / 9035786675

MUDALIAR 29, BE, MBA, 179cm Smart 22 Lacs PA, well settled Family, seeks Bride CNB– 8778514465/ 7200866346

DIVORCEE REVATHY 37/186 B.E. M.B.A Sr. Manager Fair Iyer Boy Seeks Graduate Brahmin / Veg Girl 9176090042

TAMIL

IYER VADAMA 43 Divorcee with Traditional Values & Modern Outlook MNC S/W Engr Bangalore seeks Suitable Alliance from Family-Oriented Unmarried Brahmin Girl with Good Family Background respecting our Customs and Traditions. Mobile: 9952892314

Brahmin 38/157 B.Sc, M.C.A, working in Pvt.Co seeks Fair, Educated Bride from any Brahmin Family. 9444285566

DENTIST 28 MADHWA Tirupur own clinic, well settled,any brahmin, 9363004750, 9543231769

BRIDE WANTED
Christian B.E., M.S (USA), 32, 5 feet 10 inches, fair handsome boy working as a Senior Software Engineer in USA, H1B visa, seeks god fearing Christian good looking girl preferably working as a software engineer / Doctor in USA. Caste no bar.
9487347604

Brides Tamil Iyengar Doctors / Engineer for 1993/ 181cm/ Chithrai/ Bharadwaj/ MTech Software Developer @ MNC Gurgoan Doctor Parents North settled Contact: 9300502792

TAMIL YADAVA 29/167 BE MS(USA) senior executive MNC seeks suitable bride from elite & educated family in Chennai . Phone: 94444 16262

Tamil Muslim 30/5'7", Software Engineer in Seattle (USA), MS CS (NY, USA). Affluent Well-Educated Family from Chennai. Contact: 9094349425

TELUGU

KSHATRIYA RAJU Groom, MD Radiology, Age 29. Same community Bride with PG preferred. Contact: 9500198706

KAMMAVAR NAIDU 30, 174 cm Pooram–Simmam M.S (Engg) working in USA seeks bride from same community working/studying in USA, CT. 9442026567 or kvr1956@gmail.com

45/170 Arya Vysya (Gupta) Late Marriage, own house, working for Infosys at Bangalore. Prfd any Language, Divorcee without children, CNB, any State. 9901753787

ARYA VYSYAS, Mithunakulam, 46, B.Tech, M.B.A, single, Industrialist pure Veg. Ct: 9940420039 / 9789978999

BALIJA NAIDU 30yrs Rohini Rishabam Fair Business (Surgical Mfg) Seeks Any Telugu Caste Bride. 9790963402.

AGE 42, MCA,MBA,Sadhayam,Kumba Rasi,Fair Software engineer Seeks Suitable Bride. Caste no bar. 7904010930

AGE 42, MCA,MBA,Sadhayam,Kumba Rasi,Fair Software engineer Seeks Suitable Bride. Caste no bar. 7904010930

BALIJA NAIDU fair looking Groom Age 28, Hgt–5.8, BE. Pvt Co@ Bangalore Bride from Telugu Fmly. 6379080880

KAMMA NAIDU (1000cr) Rich 25/MBA, Own Chemicals, Food Preservatives & Ingredients import & export seeks Rich Family bride. Ct: 9514173518

NAIDU 1991 Born 186 cm Seeks suitable Bride for ME, MBA, PhD, Self Employed, Fair, Ct: Father 9944533545

Telugu Settybalija Groom Divorced No Kids 43Y 173cm 72kg Wheatish Brown MBA SW Hyd 22Lpa seeks Girl Same/ Equal Caste Working/ Homemaker Contact: 9908487569.

Kapu/Divorced / No Dowry/ 44 Yrs/ 171 cm/ B.Tech /No Kids/ Working in BSNL - (Python Programmer) Upper Middle Class, Bridegroom, with own house and own plot, seeks Beautiful Bride, Age-35-40 Yrs / (Inter/Degree studied). Poor Traditional Family, Widow/Divorcee, Clean Habits, Family Oriented, must understand & speak Telugu Contact: 9441188043

URDU

SMU 29/179 ME PG Engineer MNC, Europe seeks Working BE/ME Engineer bride from Reputed Religious good family. Only WhatsApp: 0091–6369056963.

MUSLIM URDU, Handsome 30/175, O+, B.E, Asst. Manager, Nationalised Bank Rs.10 LPA, Middle Class. Seeks Professionally qualified employed beautiful bride. Contact : 88701 14557

SUNNI MUSLIM Urdu Well Settled Divorced Groom require New / Divorced Bride. Call: 9962484938.

MUSLIM BOY 26/170 BE, MBA, HR, Bangalore, well settled family. Seeks Good Looking bride. Ct: 9443876677

CORPORATE EXECUTIVE International Bank working Chennai 16L p.a. 40/5.6 divorcee seek alliance. 9962398590

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BRAHMIN , 32, 170 cms, Management Professional, Masters. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a working professional. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

SAIVA PILLAI, 29, 160 cms, Businessman, B.Com. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

24 MANAI TELUGU CHETTIAR, 30, 178 cms, Businessman, BS. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

SC, 32, 180 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Bangalore. Father is an IAS. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

MUSLIM SUNNI, 28, 170 cms, Doctor, MS in General Surgery. Lives in Erode. Parents are Doctors. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 32, 163 cms, Consultant, MBA. Lives in USA. Parents are retired. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

BRAHMIN, 32, 155 cms, Corporate Lawyer, Masters in Legal, Lives in London. Parents are Professionals. Looking for a like minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYAR, 25, 157 cms, Pursuing CA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

PILLAI, 32, 160 cms, Divorced, Entrepreneur. BSc. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

DEVENDRA KULA VELLALAR, 26, 167 cms, Management Professional, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a retired person. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

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TELUGU

NAIDU/46 MCA/IT, Div (no issues), seeks suitable groom. Ph. 9445691753 mail: pattabin@gmail.com

GAVARANAIDU DIVORCEE 44/153 Kettai Fair Wellemployed Seeks Welleducated Employed Chennai Groom 9791031191

KAMMA 42 Ph.D Divorced, no issues. Visakam / Thulam seeks educated groom 7904501004 vnimavathi@gmail.com

✔ **Naidu/Balija, Good** looking Girl, 29 5'6" Divorced (less than 1yr married) working in Australia, Masters (AUS) Affluent family. Looking for a well educated like minded match. +91 9600179302/ +1 5169744715

URDU

SUNNI URDU 24Y 5'5" Hajjah fashion designer looking for a pious handsome employed boy <28 from a good - family in TN. WhatsApp bio–data & - photos 9884918595

URDU MUSLIM Labbai 30yrs/150cm, B.E Software Engineer/1.3 lakh PM. Seeks B.E, M.E, Engineer Groom KA & TN State Only. Ct : 94426 69961.

SMU speaking good looking girl, fair, slim, M.A lit, 24/163cm, rich,Educated Family Expectation : Groom well mannered with good job Ph: 7708707096

MUSLIM URDU 28 years B.E, LL.M Advocate Seeks Master Degree Well employed, Age 29 to 32 Tamil Nadu Only. Contact No. 9940641555

SM SHEIK M.Arch / P. G. Professional within 30 for Beautiful, Religious M. Arch in Chennai. Ct: 86819 43456. Email: ziaahamed@yahoo.com

SMU, 23 Years / 5.4Ft Software Developer, Fair & Good LookingSeeking Groom from a Well Educated & Orthodox Family. 9042581806

SUNNY MUSLIM Parents seeks an alliance for their daughter. Fair BE (CSE) 23 Years. Groom with Good qualification, well mannered with good family values. Preferred Chennai resident. Ct: 8220048809 / 9360839268

DIVORCEE

VANNIAR 41, Widower, Govt. staff, MD, PhD, Own Naturo hospital & 6acre plot land at Kallakurichi, 2L/M, seek bride, 95005 75834

SUITABLE EMPLOYED partner for a tall Hindu boy, known family, 49 years, B.tech, MS, US citizen, employed, divorcee, contact : 91-9645145972 WhatsApp

DOCTOR

SOUTH INDIAN Christian Parent looking for alliance to son Doctor doing clinical attachment in UK age 29 contact 7397549752 / 00971523351695

HINDU MBC Maruthuvar (Vaithiyars), MBBS Own Clinic, 33, Tall and Good Looking seeks Alliance For Remarriage from Divorced Bride or Unmarried. MBBS, BSMS, BAMS or other degrees from Good Family Background. Caste No Bar. Ph: 9442788649, 7598179790

NAIDU, 27/182, Magam, MD., Studying in USA seeks Bride from Decent family willing to study /work in USA. Contact: 9788391456 / 9677122110.

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 28/178 MDS Asst Prof/50K Sadhayam, Raghu in Lagnam. Seeks BDS/BPT Employed/Unemployed Bride.Ct: 9789859565, 8056114235

Sozhiya Vellala Doctor 26 doing PG looking for Good looking Professional Girl. Call 9100115434, Email Id: chidu09@yahoo.com

ENGLISH

LOOKING FOR homely professional match below 40yrs for Christian, mechanical engineer, Masters IIT Bombay. 44 yrs/5'8",Christian. Well settled Army family, Chennai . Ct : geco271at@gmail.com, mob: 988 432 8543

INVITE PROPOSALS from well settled girl for 30 years tall MBA, PGDM Kerala Hindu handsome boy settled in Coimbatore. Call 8838184509

ALLIANCE FOR Ezhava boy, 30yrs/ 168cm, Vishakam, M.Tech, Asst. Manager South Indian Bank, Chennai Contact– 7700052628 /8072216410

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

55 Yrs/166/MA.LL.B, /Cast no Bar. Searching for Good Hearted Woman. Contact: 083414 82731.

MALAYALAM

NAIR VEGETARIAN boy,13–06–1986 2.24pm, BTech, Lead Software Engineer,8281872853

NRI

SOUTH INDIAN Christian Parent looking for alliance to son Engineer working in UAE age 32 contact 7397549752 / 00971523351695

**GROO

Nettaru's wife will be reappointed on humanitarian grounds, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A file photo of Nutan Kumari at Dakshina Kannada DC K.V. Rajendra's office.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Saturday that Nutan Kumari, wife of the slain BJP Yuva Morcha leader Praveen Nettaru, who had been sacked from her temporary State government job will be reappointed on humanitarian grounds.

Mr. Siddaramaiah tweeted that whenever a new government takes charge, sacking of the temporary employees hired by the previous government is a natural course. Thus, more than 150 such temporary employees appointed on contract, including Ms. Kumari, had been sacked. There was no government intervention in the same. But Ms. Kumari will be reinducted considering her case as a special one, he said.

Earlier in the day the BJP described the sacking of Ms. Kumari as "vendetta". Speaking to presspersons in Mangaluru, Nalin Kumar Kateel, Dakshina Kannada MP and State BJP president, said that he will appeal to the Chief Minister to let Ms. Kumari continue in her job. He will write a letter to the Chief Minister. If the government refuses, she will be provided temporary employment in any of the Union government establishments in Mangaluru such as the New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT), he said. "The Congress is into vendetta politics," Mr. Kateel alleged.

Asked why she was appointed for a limited tenure as a contract employee by the Basavaraj Bommai-led government, he said that there were some legal hurdles for regularising the services of Ms. Kumari. The BJP government had taken a legal opinion to overcome the hurdle on regularising her service, he added.

After the murder of Mr. Nettaru in Bellare in Dakshina Kannada in July, 2022, Mr. Bommai issued an order appointing Ms. Nutan in his office in Bengaluru temporarily on compassionate grounds. She was among 57 persons whose services were taken on contract by the Office of Chief Minister for Group C posts, according to official sources.

Ms. Nutan expressed her difficulty in reporting for duty in Bengaluru and hence she was deputed to the office of Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner where she was posted to the section handling Chief Minister's relief works.

She was working there since October 13, 2022.

Power shutdown on May 30

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply on May 30 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m due to maintenance works. Areas that will be affected are: Gubbalala, part of Uttarahalli, ISRO layout Industrial area, Maruthi Layout, Bharath Layout, Doddakallasandra Industrial area, Agara and connected areas, Kumaraswamy Layout, Vittal Nagara, Yadalam Nagar and Maruthi Nagar.

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Heavy pre-monsoon rains push up prices of vegetables and flowers

According to K.R. Market Vegetable Traders' Association, the rates will go up in the coming weeks as monsoon arrives

Sangeetha Kestur
Shrushti Mahajan
BENGALURU

The pre-monsoon rains in the vegetable growing areas of Bengaluru have caused the prices of vegetables to shoot up by ₹5-30. As hailstorms also battered crops, the quality of vegetables has taken a hit, thereby leading to a supply crunch in the markets. The prices of flowers which are regularly bought have also gone up this week.

The price of beans has gone up from ₹55-60 per kg to ₹70 in the last week, while the price of carrot has gone up from ₹60 to ₹87. Similarly, brinjal has jumped from ₹42 to ₹50, while the price of potatoes has increased by ₹10. Other vegetables like capsicum, beetroot, chillies and bitter gourd have also gone up by ₹10 per kg in the retail markets.

However, retail vegetable sellers said that they could not reap any profits out of the increased prices. Chikkanna, a local vendor in N.R. Colony market said, "Prices in vegetables have increased a lot in the wholesale market and I have not made a profit in the last 10 days. Vegetables vendors are always at the receiving end of the rains indirectly."

Even at HOPCOMS, the prices of vegetables have seen an increase. Shakarappa Shadapad, a HOPCOMS vendor in Adugodi, informed that the price of brinjal was previously around ₹42 but now it has gone up by ₹8. Bitter gourd was previously ₹48 per kg but is now sold at ₹60.

According to Sridhar of the K.R. Market Vegetable Traders' Association, the prices will inevitably go up in the upcoming weeks as monsoon arrives.

As hailstorms also battered crops, the quality of vegetables has taken a hit, thereby leading to a supply crunch in the markets. FILE PHOTO

Daily commodities

Meanwhile, at the flower markets, the price of sevanthige has gone up from ₹120-160 to ₹200 per kg between last week and this week, while jasmine has shot up by ₹50 per kg and button roses has gone up to ₹200 per kg from ₹100.

Consumers expressed their concern about the escalation of costs of such daily commodities. "Fibrous vegetables and leafy greens are used most in our household and prices have shot up due to rain. We usually do not buy vegetables online, but we have started buying them on online platforms as it is cheaper", said Savitha Srikanth, a homemaker.

Thanga Maruthi Prasad, another consumer, said, "Prices in vegetables and flowers have increased since the heavy rains and it affects us as we have budget constraints. So, we resort to buying in smaller quantities."

Rising prices

Vegetable	Price in ₹ per kg (before rain)	Price in ₹ per kg (after rain)
Beans	55-60	70
Carrot	60	87
Brinjal	42	50
Potato	30	40
Bitter gourd	48	60
Flower	**Price in ₹ per kg (before rain)**	**Price in ₹ per kg (after rain)**
Sevanthige	120-160	200
Rose	100	200
Jasmine	350	400

Boy drowns in club pool, manager booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 15-year-old boy drowned in a swimming pool of a recreation club in Madanayakanahalli on Saturday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Danush, a resident of Madanayakanahalli, and an SSLC student in a government school.

According to the police, the incident occurred around 10.30 a.m. at RD Recreation Club. Danush, along with a few friends, had gone swimming in the pool. He was informed that the water level was low in the pool, so he jumped and was unable to get out of the water. His friends were unaware he didn't know how to swim, so they didn't check on him. After some time, they noticed Danush was missing and raised an alarm. Someone jumped into the pool and brought him out to find him unconscious, said the police.

Danush was the son of a daily wage couple. The family alleging negligence of the pool management staged a protest demanding compensation. The police arrested the manager of the club charging him under death due to negligence for investigations.

Kari Ishad mango of Karnataka gets GI tag

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

The Kari Ishad mango prominently grown in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada has bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry under the Union Government.

The GI certificate issued to Matha Totagars Farmer Producer Company Limited, Ankola, is valid till March 1, 2032.

According to the Geographical Indications Journal of the government, the Kari Ishad is accepted as one of the finest quality mangoes due to its unique aroma, luscious taste, high amount of pulp, shape, and size.

In addition to Ankola, the mango is grown in Karwar and to a certain extent in Kumta of Uttara Kannada. The trees are prominently spread over Belse, Shetgeri, Belambara, Mogata, Vandige villages of Ankola. Vandige village produced the highest amount of about 600 tonnes of fruits a season. Belse village houses 1,500 plants. Hichkad Group Vividhoddeshagala Sahakari Sangha Niyamita, Ankola, which runs the Oriental Canneries and Industries produces about 12,000 tons of pulp every year.

According to the Registry, the fruits are large and oblique to oval shape. Each panicle usually bears one fruit. A well grown tree bears up to 2,000 fruits in a season. The fruit has a shelf life of about five days.

Kari Ishad mango is known for its unique aroma, luscious taste and high amount of pulp.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, MAY. 28	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:41
RISE 12:56	SET 00:56
MONDAY, MAY. 29	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:42
RISE 13:43	SET 01:32
TUESDAY, MAY. 30	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:42
RISE 14:29	SET 02:07

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	27
Mysuru	35	22
Bengaluru	32	22

Bengaluru Today
34°C The weather will be little warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower is likely to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Passengers travelling without tickets in KSRTC buses penalised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In its drive against ticketless travel, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) conducted checks in its buses in the State and in neighbouring States during April 2023. The squad checked 44,540 buses and 3,070 cases of pilferage were detected. 3,415 ticketless passengers were penalised and fine of ₹5,54,832 collected. A release said disciplinary action was initiated against the erring staff.

Competitions for children

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board as a part of World Environment Day, will be conducting drawing and essay writing competitions for school children on June 2 at 10 a.m. at Jawahar Bal Bhavan, Cubbon Park.

The painting competitions will be held for primary, middle, and high school students from 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. Essay writing will be held for high school students from 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. Those interested can e-mail bngcitysouth@kspcb.gov.in

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. SWRTMYPR202324WT01
Dated : 24.05.2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Procurement of Hydraulics Hoses, Pneumatic hoses, end fittings along with crimping of hydraulic hoses of different sizes for the use of track machines in SWR.	Rs. 35,41,993/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 23-06-2023**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer / Track Machines
PUB/120/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is informed that our clients **Nakul T M s/o Madhusoodanan T M and Anjali C M w/o. Nakul T M** intends to purchase the property described in the schedule herein from **M/s. Creative and Vikas Builders** (hereinafter Developer/seller). The Developer/seller represents and warrant that it is the absolute owner of the schedule property and it has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the Developer/seller further represents and warrants that it has not encumbered, mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from it no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven(07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Flat No.104, on 1st Floor, East Wing in **"CREATIVE SHREE VIKAS"** measuring SBA of 1430 sqft, and 565 sqft UDS, with One covered car parking space, constructed on Sy No.89/2B & 89/3, measuring 1 acre 13 guntas or 57717 sqft, converted for residential use, Khata No.1/89/2B/89/3/17-17 situated at **Rachenahalli Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Tq, Bangalore Dist, Bangalore**
Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 28-05-2023

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Tender Notice No. OHE/CN/DyCEE/23-24/04/187 Dated : 26-05-2023
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer / OHE, Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore invites E-Tender for the following works.
Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25kV Traction Over Head Equipment (OHE) on the proposed BG line between Peralam (Incl) and Thirunallaru (Excl) stations in connection with the laying of new BG line between Peralam and Karaikal stations in Tiruchchirappalli Division of Southern Railway. Tender Value : ₹ **7,23,92,844.09.** Tender closing date and time : **26.06.2023** at **11.00 Hrs**.
For more details visit **www.ireps.gov.in**
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **MR. PARANTHAMAN G S/o. Mr. C.Ganesh Pillai** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Sri.GANESH.K S/o. Late.Krishnappa,** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Immovable property bearing Vacate **site No.22,** Carved out of Survey No. 34/2, of **Bandebommasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore** measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, in all measuring **1600 Square Feet,** and bounded on the;
East By- Site No.21, West By-Road, North By-Site No.23, South By- Road.
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an Agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its Owner: **Mr.M.SAADATHULLA SHARIEF** S/o Sri.M.Nusrathulla Sharief, residing at: No.26, Cock Burn Road, Bangalore-560051.
Apart from the said Owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the vacant residential property bearing Municipal No.12 (Old No.71/E), PID No.48-16-12, measuring East to West 28ft 6inches, North to South 53ft, situated at 1st Main Road, Sudhamanagar, Bangalore-560027 and bounded on the:
East by : Common Passage
West by : Private Property belonging to M.Nanjunda Rao and Sri.Ramakrishna
North by : Property belonging to Akkammal
South by : 1st Main Road.
Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Tender Notice No. 08-CECNMS-2023-E-337256-II Dated : 10-05-2023
E-Tender Notice No. 09-CECNMS-2023-E-359061 Dated : 12-05-2023
E-Tender Notice No. 10-CECNMS-2023-E-368221 Dated : 19-05-2023
E-Tender Notice No. 11-CECNMS-2023-E-360951 Dated : 26-05-2023
E-Tender Notice No. CAO-CN-MS-PSS-02-MAY-23 Dated : 26-05-2023
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderers / Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Name of the Work :
Proposed Gauge conversion between Peralam and Karaikal Section : Proposed collection, Supply and Stacking of 50mm machine crushed stone ballast at station yards, Mid section in between Peralam and Karaikal Stations.
Providing Consultancy Services and Preparation of DPR for (1) Diversion of Existing BG line and (2) Proposed tunneling arrangement below existing BG line between Valantharavai - Uchipuli in Manamadurai - Rameswaram Section.
Proposed New BG Line between Chinnasalem and Kallakurichi - Proposed construction of Major Bridge at Ch:5679 with 6 x 18.30m PSC "I" girder over Kaniyamoor lake (Two Packet System).
Proposed new BG line connecting Road 3 from Tiruvarur and Tiruchchirappalli line : Earthwork for forming bank duly providing conventional track blanketing, extension & construction of work in minor bridges, protective works and Assembling and linking of BG track including points and crossing, at SEJs. transportation of P.Way materials, supplying, leading and dumping of ballast and NI work connection works etc., at Mayiladuthurai Junction.
Request for Proposal (RFP) for providing Project Supervision Services (PSS) for the works under Deputy Chief Engineer / MTP / MTMY, 1) New line between sections Chennai (Perungudi) and Cuddalore (Total length 179.280 kms) 2) Proposed 4th Line between Chennai Beach and Chennai Egmore (Total length 4.32 kms) 3) MRTS Phase II Extension between Velachery and St. Thomas Mount.

Cash Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of Completion (Months)	Pre-Bid conference date	Closing Date at 15.00 Hrs.
60320625.42	451600.00	9	-	01-06-2023
3069223.65	61400.00	3	-	06-06-2023
121166702.79	755800.00	6	-	13-06-2023
57790183.94	439000.00	12	-	20-06-2023
22772097.60	263900.00	24	05-06-2023	26-06-2023

For further details, please refer to website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

HDFC
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION LTD. CIN L70100MH1977PLC019916
Regd. Office: Ramon House, H T Parekh Marg, 169, Backbay Reclamation, Churchgate, Mumbai- 400020
Regional Office : HDFC House, No.51, Kasturaba Road, Bangalore - 560001. **Ph :** 080 64807999
Fax: 080 22275754, **E-mail : customer.service@hdfc.com**, **Website:** www.hdfc.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC Limited)** under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notice under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the said Notice, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused/are getting the said Notice to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notice are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to HDFC Limited, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amount indicated hereinbelow in their name(s), together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notice from the date mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset has been mortgaged to HDFC Limited by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Attention of the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	(Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
01	**Mr. S N Annaiah Reddy (Borrower)**, Sri Srinivasa Chitramandira, **Designation:** Proprietor, **Mr. S A Rajashekar Reddy (Co-Borrower-1), Mrs. N Navaneetha (Co-Borrower-2), Designation**: Proprietrix and **Mrs. K M Pushpa (Co-Borrower-3), Designation:** Proprietrix, **All are residing at** : 10-03, 1st Main, 8th Cross, S G Palya, Taverekere, Dharman College Post, Bengaluru 560029. **All are also at:** House Property No.15/1, S No."Bellagio Suites", 3rd Main Road, Balajinagar, S G Palya, Bengaluru 560029. **All are also at:** House No 78/13, S No., Srinivasa Cinema House, 1st Main Road, Behind Christ College, Venkateshwara Layout, Chikka Adugodi, S G Palya, Bengaluru 560029. **Mr. S N Annaiah Reddy (Borrower) & K M Pushpa (Co-Borrower-3), Both are residing at:** Unit-6C, Floor-6th, Bharat Apartment, S No 44/1A,44/1B, Fair Field Layout, Bangalore 560001. **And also at:** No 96/968/1, KMP Galleria, Meenakshi Layout, Parappana Agrahara, Sarjapur Road, Electronic City, Bangalore-560100. **Mr. S A Rajashekar Reddy (Co-Borrower-1),** Enigma Pub Vinsura Ventures, **Designation:** Partner, No 2, 100 Feet Road, Opp to Canara Bank, Koramangala, Bengaluru 560034.	**Loan A/c Nos:** **(1) 623048480 Rs.11,68,48,867/-, (2) 623048741 Rs. 3,07,01,286/-, (3) 623354736 Rs. 3,59,13,876/-, (4) 625247152 Rs. 18,92,389/-, (5) 641899688 Rs. 6,74,86,625/-, (6) 656408378 Rs. 49,29,210/-, (7) 656408653 Rs. 42,62,221/-** **Grand Total Rs. 26,20,34,474/- [Rupees Twenty Six Crores Twenty Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand Four Hundred & Seventy Four only] As on 30.04.2023**	18.05.2023 ..... N.P.A. Date 06.05.2023	**Item - I** : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **New Municipal No.15/1,** Sy.No.104/1, situated at Tavarekere Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, admeasuring East to West (135.9 + 136.9)/2 ft., and North to South 50 ft., and construction thereon present and future and land bounded on the: East by: Property of Sri S.A. Ramaiah Reddy, West by : 25 ft Road, North by : Property of Sri S.N. Srinivasa Reddy & South by : Property of Sri S.N. Muni Reddy. **Item - II** : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.78/10-3,** New Municipal Khatha No.10/3 situated at 1st Main, 8th Cross, S G Palya, D.R. College Post, Bangalore, admeasuring East to West 42 feet 9 inches and North to South 78 feet, totally measuring 3,346.2 Sq.ft. and construction thereon present and future and land bounded on the: East by : 20 Feet Road, West by : Property of Sri S.N. Muni Reddy, North by : 8th Cross Road, South by : Property of Late Sri. Kariyappa. **Item -III** : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **New Municipal Khatha No.13, Old No.78** Situated at 1st Main Road, S.G.Palya, Bangalore, admeasuring East to West 195 feet and North to South 76 + 78/2 feet, totally measuring 15,015 Sq.ft (Known as Srinivasa Cinemas) and the construction thereon present and future and land bounded on the: East by : Property of Sri S.N.Gopala Reddy, West by : 1st Main Road, S.G. Palya, North by : 7th Cross Road, South by : 8th Cross Road. **Item-IV** : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.1 (old khata no.46/6),** New Katha no 96/968/1, admeasuring 7,920 Sq.ft. situate at Parappana Agrahara, Bangalore South Taluk (BBMP limits), Meenakshi Layout, Parappana Agrahara, Electronic City, Bangalore and Bounded as under: On or towards East : By Land bearing Site No.1, On or towards West : By Road, On or towards North : By Site of Makanahalli Muniappa, On or towards South : By 20 Ft Road and Site of Govindareddy.

*with further interest @ 18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to HDFC Limited as aforesaid, then HDFC Limited shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of HDFC Limited. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 28.05.2023
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorized Officer
HDFC Ltd., Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

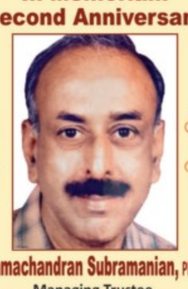
18th ANNIVERSARY

04.12.1922 Manikudy 28.05.2005
Shri M.V. KRISHNAMOORTHY IYER
EVER LOVING FAMILY MEMBERS
MANIKUDY VILLAGE
KUMBAKONAM

DEATH

Mr. P. Bhaskar (41)
Senior Engineer - IT Pre-Press,
The Hindu, Bengaluru
passed away on 26-05-2023
Address:
91, Shoba Nagar,
Aavarampalayam,
Coimbatore- 641006
Mobile: 8248379151

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In Memoriam
Second Anniversary

Dr. Ramachandran Subramanian, PHD AIIMS.
Managing Trustee,
Lok Dharma Seva Foundation trust, Chennai
Retd professor at JNU, new Delhi.
28-05-2021
In loving memory of a beloved
Son, Brother, Father, Husband & Grandfather
We miss you everyday
Subha, Prashanth and Vidhur

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
GeM NOTICE
Divisional Railway Manager(Mechanical), Southern Railway, Madurai - 625016 for and on behalf of The President of India, invites Online tenders in Two packet system from reputed contractors for the following works as per tender notice given in Government e-Marketing place(GeM) portal. The tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to apply for works in Madurai Division, need to get enrolled in the GeM portal and only online tenders will be accepted.
Name of the Work: **Outcome based comprehensive House keeping at Madurai Railway colony and Rubbish removal contract for 731 days.**
SI. No.1; GeM Bid No.: **GEM / 2023 / B / 3484741, Dated: 06.02.2023;** Place of Work: **MDU Colony premises**; Value of the work: ₹ **1,48,99,530.67p;** Tender closing date: **14.06.2023.**
Further details are available in the detailed tender notice on website **www.Gem.gov.in**
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

THE HINDU GROUP

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Mangaluru
June 3, 2023
Geetha S.M Shetty Hall
Ramakrishna College, Bunts Hostel Circle.

Bengaluru
June 3, 2023
NMKRV Shashwathi Auditorium
22nd cross, 3rd block, Jayanagar.

Davanagere
June 4, 2023
GM Halamma Auditorium
GMITCampus.

Bidar
June 4, 2023
Sri Poojya Channabasava Pattadevaru Rang Mandir
Near district Stadium.

Bengaluru
June 10, 2023
Chowdiah Memorial Hall
16th Cross Road, Malleswaram.

Hubballi
June 10, 2023
K.L.E Society's Biotechnology Auditorium
B.V.P College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar.

Ballari
June 10, 2023
Basavarajeshwari Public School & College (BPSC)
Anantapur Road.

Mysuru
June 11, 2023
Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering
P.B. No. 206, Gokulam III Stage.

Tumakuru
June 11, 2023
Birla Auditorium
Siddaganga Institute of Technology.

Kalaburagi
June 18, 2023
Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan
Sharana Basava University.

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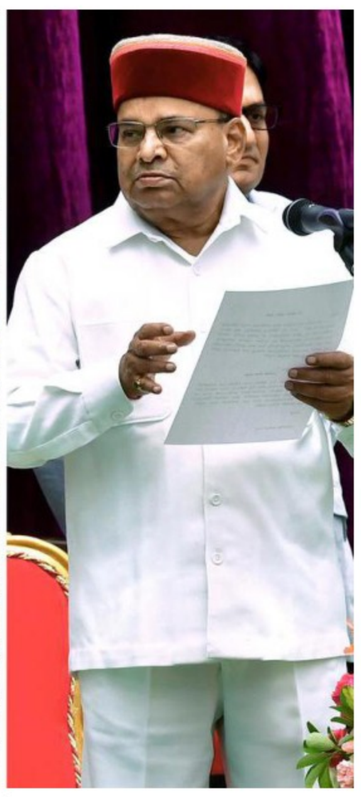
Silver Sponsors

Associate Sponsors

For Sponsorship enquiries call
North Karnataka **97314 00992** | Mangaluru **94481 60126** | Bengaluru & Tumakuru **98450 95781** | Mysuru **94488 71815**



Swearing-in ceremony: Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administering the oath to new Ministers at Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Cheering them: Congress supporters during the swearing-in ceremony. K. MURALI KUMAR

Star presence: Actor Shivarajkumar with his wife, Geetha, at the programme. K. MURALI KUMAR

Reaching out: Pradeep Eshwar, Chickballapur MLA, being greeted by party supporters. K. MURALI KUMAR

From Page One

24 more Ministers join Siddaramaiah's team

Mr. Boseraju, who is not a member of either House of the State legislature, also took oath as Minister. He is likely to become a member of the Legislative Council soon.

Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar and eight MLAs were sworn in as Ministers on May 20.

The Cabinet has a mix of young and old faces. Ms. Hebbalkar, Mr. Venkatesh, Mr. Byrathi Suresh, Mr. Madhu Bangarappa, Mr. Sudhakar, Mr. Mankal Vaidya, Mr. Rajanna, Mr. Boseraju, and Mr. Nagendra were sworn in as Ministers for the first time.

Caste and regional allocation

The Cabinet has six Vokkaligas, eight Veerashaiva-Lingayats, six from Other Backward Classes, six from Scheduled Castes, three from Scheduled Tribes, two Muslims, and one each from the Jain, Brahmin, and Christian communities. Ms. Hebbalkar, elected from Belagavi Rural constituency, is the lone woman MLA to make it to the Ministry.

In the 34-member Ministry, six Ministers – K.J. George, Ramalinga Reddy, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Krishna Byre Gowda, Dinesh Gundu Rao, and Byrathi Suresh – are from Bengaluru, a region where the Congress did not perform too well in the Assembly polls. This is believed to be largely with an eye on the elections to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, the richest civic body in Karnataka.

Meanwhile, supporters of four-time MLA M Krishnappa and his son and three-time MLA Priya Krishna staged a protest by holding up placards near Raj Bhavan, over their leaders' non-inclusion in the Cabinet. Senior leader B.K. Hariprasad, MLC, and former Minister T.B. Jayachandra, MLA, have openly expressed their disappointment over being denied Cabinet berths. Similarly, former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi, who quit the BJP and joined the Congress just ahead of the polls, too did not make it to the Cabinet.

A majority of Ministers took oath in the name of God. However, first-time Minister K.N. Rajanna, representing Madhugiri constituency in Tumakuru district, took oath in the name of the Buddha, social reformer Basaveshwara, B.R. Ambedkar, and Valmiki. Ms. Hebbalkar took oath in the name of Basaveshwara, Chhatrapati Shivaji, B.R. Ambedkar, voters of her constituency, and her mother.

Simmering discontent among those excluded, but no open rebellion

Supporters of some MLAs hold protests demanding inclusion of their leaders in the Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Discontent is brewing in the ruling Congress among a few legislators left out of the Cabinet expansion on Saturday and their supporters have expressed disappointment as well.

Prominent among those who felt let down are MLAs T.B. Jayachandra, Rudrappa Lamani, Ajay Singh, M. Krishnappa, Basavaraj Rayareddy, C. Puttarangashetty, and K.M. Shivalinge Gowda, and MLCs B.K. Hariprasad and Saleem Ahmed. Though no legislator has openly revolted against the party, Congress sources said there was simmering discontent among seniors who missed berths.

To meet high command

While Mr. Hariprasad has reportedly threatened to tender his resignation for the membership of the Legislative Council, Mr. Jayachandra said he would meet AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge and former AICC president Rahul Gandhi and explain to them "injustice" meted out the Vokkaliga community in the Cabinet expansion.

Upset: Supporters of four-time MLA M. Krishnappa and his MLA-son Priya Krishna staging a protest near Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Speaking to a private Kannada news TV channel, Mr. Jayachandra said, "Soon after the results, I met senior leaders and demanded justice for the community. The community has been sidelined in the Cabinet expansion," the former Law Minister said. There are six Vokkaliga community Ministers in the Cabinet. Sections of all communities have voted for the Congress, he said, and termed the mandate historic.

Apparently, Mr. Siddaramaiah opposed the name of Mr. Hariprasad, MP and loyalist of the former AICC president Sonia Gandhi, and favoured Madhu Bangarappa, who also belongs to the Idiga community, instead. Mr. Shivalinge Gowda, who joined the Congress after quitting the JD(S), said, "I am saddened, but I will not speak anything now."

Mr. Puttarangashetty, who has been the party's candidate for the Deputy Speaker's post in the Assembly, said, "I am surprised at not being taken into the Cabinet despite my name being on the list till the last minute." He defeated the former Minister V. Somanna in Chamarajanagar constituency.

Members of the Uppara community staged a protest in Chamarajanagar opposing the non-inclusion of Mr. Puttarangashetty in the Cabinet. Supporters of Mr. Lamani, Haveri MLA, too staged a protest in front of the KPCC office here seeking a ministerial berth for their leader.

Supporters of four-time MLA Mr. Krishnappa and his MLA-son Priya Krishna staged a protest near Raj Bhavan opposing the non-inclusion of their leaders in the Cabinet. In Mysuru, followers of Tanveer Sait, who has been elected from the Narasimharaja constituency for the sixth time, staged a protest against his exclusion.

Leaders of the district Panchamasali Samaj organised a rally in Bagalkot on Friday, demanding a Cabinet berth for community leader Vijayanand Kashappanavar, who was part of the Panchamasali reservation agitation.

None from Council

No member of the Legislative Council was made Minister, which disappointed them. Mr. Ahmed, KPCC working president, said, "Generally, the party inducts two or three MLCs into the Cabinet."

Ministers picked going by specific criterion: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Some districts could not be given representation in the Ministry as a criterion was fixed that only those who had won more than one term would be inducted, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday.

After the swearing-in of 24 Ministers at the Raj Bhavan, he explained, "Kodagu, Haveri, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, and some other districts did not get representation because we followed a certain criterion. For example, the two MLAs in Kodagu district are first-timers. Hence, it was not possible to provide representation."

Explaining the nature of the Cabinet, the Chief Minister said it was a mix of new and old faces and there was representation to all sections of society.

"We have filled all 34 berths in the Cabinet within 15 days of forming the government to help in good governance. We are going to get on with working towards keeping our word on the five guarantees," he said. "The government should fulfil the promise we have made. People want change." He added that the Cabinet was formed with a view of giving new shape to the administration.

Hitting back at Opposition parties that have been attacking the government for not implementing the "guarantees", he said, "We have fulfilled our promises in the past. We will continue to do the same in future. Officials have been instructed to table details of the five guarantees in the next Cabinet meeting. We will chalk out a plan accordingly. They will be discussed, approved, and implemented soon."

He added that the BJP, which had "never kept its poll promises", had no moral right to attack a newly sworn-in government within days of taking charge without giving time to put processes in place.

> We have filled all 34 berths in the Cabinet within 15 days of forming the government to help in good governance. We are going to get on with working towards keeping our word on the five guarantees.
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,**
> Chief Minister

Left out of Cabinet, Savadi, Shettar have been promised to be rewarded soon

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Two prominent Lingayat leaders from Kittur Karnataka region – former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi and former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar – who are believed to have played a crucial role in the Congress regaining its foothold in the region, have been surprisingly left out from the Cabinet in the newly-formed Congress government.

Sources confirmed that the party high command had reached out to them through other leaders to convey the message that they would get their due place soon. However, it is not yet clear how the Congress would reward them for the role they played in increasing the party's tally in the region.

Jagadish Shettar

Laxman Savadi

Revolt and defection

In the run-up to the Assembly elections in Karnataka, both these Lingayat leaders, then with the BJP, had revolted against their party and disobeyed the diktat of the saffron party.

They had not only raised the issue of alleged ill-treatment of Lingayat leaders, including former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, by the BJP, particularly by party's national general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh, but had subsequently quit the party to join the Congress.

Political observers feel their entry into Congress gave a boost to the party in the region, which was facing a dearth of prominent Lingayat faces at least in the Kittur Karnataka region. Consequently the Congress increased its seat share in the region.

Mr. Savadi won with a record margin of over 72,000 votes from Athani constituency. Although Mr. Shettar failed to retain the Hubballi-Dharwad Central Assembly Constituency, which he had won six times in a row, his revolt against the BJP did affect its prospects in many constituencies in the Kittur and Kalyana Karnataka regions, believe observers.

And it was the reason for which, former Minister M.B. Patil, who has now been inducted into the Cabinet, and other senior Congress leaders, expressed confidence that Mr. Shettar and Mr. Savadi would be recognised suitably by the party high command.

According to insiders, the party high command too appeared positive in this regard and the tone and tenor of the senior leaders' responses indicated the same.

However, now both have missed the Cabinet berth, but have remained silent. Only in Athani, Pradeep Nandagaon , Congress leader and a close follower of Mr. Savadi, expressed displeasure at the Congress high command not inducting his leader.

Laxmi Hebbalkar beats her seniors from Belagavi to bag Cabinet post

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

Laxmi Hebbalkar, the lone woman Minister in the Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet, is the third woman from Belagavi district to join the State Council of Ministers.

In 1985, Leeladevi R. Prasad, who was elected from Athani, was the first woman leader to do so. In 2019, Shashikala Jolle joined the B.S. Yediyurappa Cabinet. This is apart from Rathnamala Savanur, a Janata Party leader, who was a member of the Union Council of Ministers in 1996.

Ahead of seniors

It was expected that Belagavi, which sent 11 Congress members to the Assembly, would get three Ministers – Satish Jarkiholi, Laxman Savadi, besides Ms. Hebbalkar. But Ms. Hebbalkar made it to the Cabinet earlier than veteran Lingayat leader Mr. Savadi, who joined the Congress after quitting the BJP just before the elections.

Laxmi Hebbalkar, the lone woman Minister, with her mother, during the swearing-in ceremony in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Ms. Hebbalkar, who does not come from a family of politicians unlike several other Lingayat leaders of North Karnataka, has come a long way from being a youth Congress activist in Khanapur in Belagavi district to heading a ministry.

Her political detractors say her ascent has been quick. Ramesh Jarkiholi, her one-time-mentor-turned-foe, has maintained that she would not have risen to the top in the party if not for his support. Her loyalty to D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president, seems to have added to her advantage.

However, there is no denying that the postgraduate in political science has made calculated moves in public life, faced strong opposition from the likes of the politically powerful Jarkiholi clan and seen many ups and downs in her political career with a never-say-die attitude.

She is among the few women politicians from northern Karnataka who have a recall value among voters in southern Karnataka, constantly hitting headlines. She has also served as KPCC women's wing president, Congress spokesperson, and in various district- and divisional-level posts.

Her party loyalty seems unwavering. On two occasions, there was speculation that she would quit the Congress to join the BJP, but that did not happen. Rumours were particularly strong after January 2017, when I-T officials raided the residences of Ms. Hebbalkar and Mr. Ramesh Jarkiholi, among others, in Belagavi district.

Second good news

Incidentally, when Ms. Hebbalkar arrives at the airport at Sambra in Belagavi on Sunday, she will be looking forward to meeting someone special: her granddaughter born on Friday. She is expected to soon head to Bhadravati to meet her daughter-in-law Hitha Mrunal, who happens to be the niece of Congress MLA B.K. Sangameshwar, and her granddaughter.

Gongadi shawls refashioned into shoes for farmers

Serish Nanisetti
HYDERABAD

The all-weather shoe made with Deccani wool. SERISH NANISETTI

For generations, the rough wool of the sturdy Deccani sheep has been handcrafted by the Kuruma and Kuruba – pastoral communities spread across the Deccan plateau – into a tough, all-weather shawl called a gongadi in Telangana. Now, this resilient fabric has been repurposed into all-weather shoes for farmers by three alumni of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.

"The romantic notion of being barefoot is very dangerous. When we met farmers, cracked feet, fungal infections and snake bites were the norm for them. We wanted to do something about it and the result is this shoe," says Santosh Kocherlakota, who started his career as a transportation designer aspiring to work for the likes of Ferrari and Lamborghini before he turned to an exigent problem faced by farmers.

"For a short time, I worked to design an indigenous wheelchair. Then my friends and I realised that design thinking can be used to solve real-world problems and not just to design Ferraris and Lamborghinis. We spent 1.5 years in various places in rural Maharashtra to understand the problems faced by farmers. We shortlisted the problem of shoes and started working on it," says Mr. Kocherlakota.

Nakul Lathkar, who worked on an electric car design for a European company, and Vidyadher Bhandare, who was designing seats for Indian Railways, also pooled their resources and enthusiasm to listen to farmers and understand their needs. "I learnt to crochet in nine hours and managed to stitch this shoe," says Mr. Lathkar, showing off one of the prototypes.

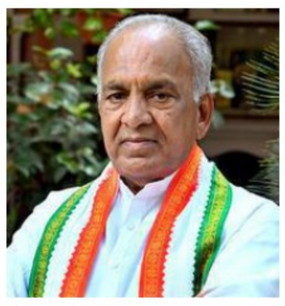
Their first batch of 30 shoes sold out in just five days in Mr. Bhandare's Kolhapur village. But once they got ₹10 lakh as incubation funding from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, the team got to work in earnest and the result is footwear that would not be out of place in any shoe boutique in the world. The team tested 40 prototypes, including some made with jute, banana fibre, cotton, screwpine fibre and even water hyacinth fibre, before identifying the Deccani wool.

The shoes are now being cross-subsidised, with a price tag of ₹2,500 for coloured models sold in urban areas, allowing farmers to buy the undyed black version for just ₹900.

Boseraju's induction as Minister surprises many

A Gandhi family loyalist, he is learnt to have played a key role in Congress victory in Karnataka's Raichur district; the AICC secretary is not a member of either the Assembly or the Council

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI


N.S. Boseraju
SANTOSH SAGAR

The inclusion of veteran Congress leader and AICC secretary N.S. Boseraju, who is not a member of either the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council, in the State Cabinet came as a surprise to senior legislators who were lobbying for ministerial berths.

Reward for 'sacrifice'
A staunch loyalist of the Gandhi family, he is learnt to have given up his claim to ticket for himself and his son "in the interest of the party" as per the party high command's wishes. He had, in return, been promised a berth if voted to power. Mr. Boseraju is learnt to have played a key role in the victory of party candidates in Raichur district. The Congress won four of the six seats in the district, while the BJP and the JD(S) won one each.

In 1985, Mr. Boseraju contested on the Congress ticket from Manvi and lost to Basavaraj Patil Anwari. After 15 years, he contested and was elected as an MLA for two consecutive terms in 1999 and 2004 from Manvi.

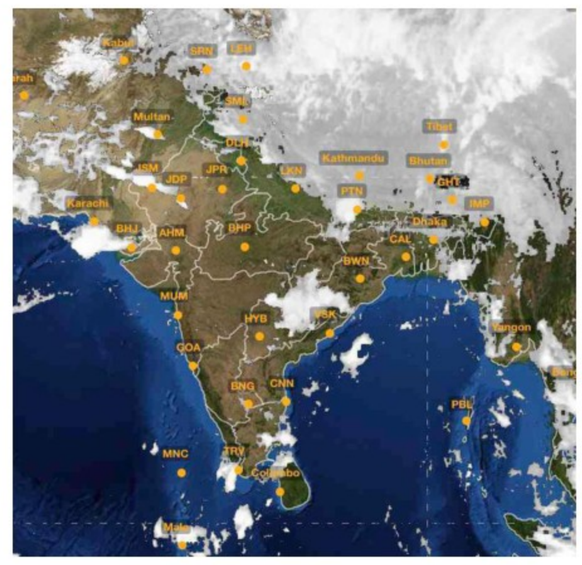
He became a member of the Legislative Council in 2014. Mr. Boseraju has served the party in different capacities such as Youth Congress president, Block Congress Committee president, District Congress Committee president, and KPCC secretary. Presently, he is the AICC secretary and also party in-charge of Telangana.

Mr. Boseraju, who completed a diploma in automobile engineering and turned a politician, has served as chairman of the Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board (earlier known as Hyderabad Karnataka Development Board) and also as political secretary to the former Chief Minister late N. Dharam Singh.

Role in Bharat Jodo
Mr. Boseraju was in-charge of Kalyana Karnataka region for Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over northwest Uttar Pradesh and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	9.2	34.2	25.2	Kozhikode	—	35.0	26.8
Ahmedabad	8	42.3	26.0	Kurnool	—	40.9	29.0
Aizawl	—	33.0	19.8	Lucknow	—	31.2	22.4
Allahabad	—	39.0	22.2	Madurai	—	39.8	25.7
Bengaluru	—	32.5	21.8	Mangaluru	—	33.8	25.0
Bhopal	4	—	24.4	Mumbai	—	34.2	28.2
Bhubaneswar	—	36.8	22.0	Mysuru	—	35.0	21.6
Chandigarh	—	34.3	21.7	New Delhi	15.7	33.2	19.3
Chennai	—	41.6	28.0	Patna	18	35.4	22.3
Coimbatore	—	36.2	24.2	Port Blair	9	33.7	26.2
Dehradun	—	31.8	20.8	Puducherry	—	39.4	27.6
Gangtok	38	18.4	13.8	Pune	—	36.4	23.4
Goa	1	35.5	26.4	Raipur	—	41.4	27.5
Guwahati	26	30.6	22.8	Ranchi	6	35.0	19.6
Hubballi	—	37.0	22.0	Shillong	8	23.3	14.7
Hyderabad	—	39.1	28.4	Shimla	—	21.5	13.6
Imphal	2	31.0	20.0	Srinagar	12	21.3	9.0
Jaipur	—	32.0	21.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.7	25.5
Kochi	—	32.2	26.4	Tiruchi	10	38.1	24.6
Kohima	3	23.0	13.5	Vijayawada	—	41.0	27.0
Kolkata	11	34.0	22.4	Visakhapatnam	—	33.0	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.24	..52	.47	..82	...123	
Bengaluru	.26	..11	100	..60	72	
Chennai	...3	120	.95	..85	76	
Delhi	.21	157	..—	..64	...141	
Hyderabad	.11	..10	.51	..58	72	
Kolkata	.12	..22	.29	..57	57	
Lucknow	...8	..71	184	..46	67	
Mumbai	...8	.30	.62	..65	99	
Pune	117	173	114	..53	47	
Visakhapatnam	.15	..49	.39	..97	...128	

Yesterday
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bikaner, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 188 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Tusker Arikompan enters residential areas in T.N. dist.; power, transport suspended

Geetha Srimathi
CHENNAI

Arikompan spotted on the streets of Cumbum on Saturday. Theni Collector says steps are being taken to chase the animal into the forest. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Wild tusker Arikompan had entered Cumbum in Theni district, and was seen roaming through the town on Saturday, after being spotted near a human habitation in Kumily, Idukki, on Friday.

Section 144 has been invoked, prohibiting the residents from stepping out of their dwellings until further orders. As a precautionary measure, electricity had been disrupted since Saturday morning.

Since the elephant was spotted along the Cumbum-Gudalur bypass and near the foothills of the Western Ghats, public transport and vehicle movement were also suspended.

The elephant had roamed many streets in the municipal limits from as early as 8 a.m. and knocked the shutters of a ration shop searching for rice. While some youth followed the pachyderm on their two-wheelers and attempted to take selfie with the animal, from a distance, there was panic all around.

Arikompan has been making the rounds along the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border since April 29, when it was released into the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

A few days later, the tusker was seen in Megamalai and mock-charged at a bus in Chinnamanur. After having camped at Megamalai for over a week, the tusker returned to the Kerala border on May 22. Since Friday night, it started moving towards the Cumbum-Gudalur stretch and stepped inside the municipal limits.

Superintendent of Police Praveen Umesh Dongare, District Forest Officer Samartha, Megamalai Tiger Reserve Deputy Director Anand, forest rangers Muralidharan and Anbu and their ground staff were closely watching the movement of Arikompan and appealed to the residents to stay indoors. With the satellite radio collar installed on the pachyderm, multiple teams were deployed for surveillance.

Pachyderm resting
Forest officials said since 2 p.m., the pachyderm was resting inside a tamarind farm on the outskirts of the Cumbum-Gudalur Salai Road, after the authorities chased it using dummy pistols.

In a press release, Theni Collector R.V. Shajeevana said the prohibitory order would be lifted when the pachyderm moved inside the deep forest.

As the animal moved inside the Cumbum town, a four-wheeler belonging to the Forest Department and an autorickshaw were damaged.

Resident injured
A resident identified as Palraj, son of Sadayandi of Asariyar Street, was injured when the pachyderm attacked. He has been admitted in Theni Government Medical College and Hospital.

The Collector also appealed to the residents to cooperate with the officials.

Two kumkis have been brought to the spot and steps are being taken for chasing the animal into the forest.

(With inputs from L. Srikrishna).

Above-normal monsoon in Kerala: IMD

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala may be on its toes this southwest monsoon season as the India Meteorological Department has warned of an above-normal monsoon for the State. Though the monsoon is likely to be normal in the rest of the country, the southern peninsula is likely to receive above-normal rainfall under the influence of positive Indian Ocean Dipole conditions.

Fire breaks out at KMSC warehouse

The Hindu Bureau
ALAPPUZHA

A fire broke out at the godown of the Kerala Medical Services Corporation near Government Medical College at Vandanam in Alappuzha in the early hours of Saturday. No casualties were reported.

Sources said the blaze was spotted around 2 a.m. at a two-room facility storing some 30,000 kg of bleaching powder. Three fire tenders were pressed into action and it took around an hour to douse the flames. Though the fire spread to a nearby main building where medicines are kept, it was brought under controlwith the help of an automatic fire suppression system installed at the building.

The cause of the blaze had not yet been ascertained. Preliminary estimates pegged the damage caused by the fire at around ₹16 lakh.

It was the third blaze at KMSC warehouses in the last 10 days. The corporation's district drug warehouse in Kollam was gutted on May 17. It was followed by a major blaze at its warehouse at Thumba in Thiruvananthapuram on May 23.

Terming it suspicious, the Congress has demanded a thorough probe into the recurring fire accidents at KMSC warehouses.

The corporation is facing a multi-crore corruption allegation over its procurement of protective gear and medicines at exaggerated rates through agents during the pandemic. It has been accused of staging fires to erase evidence.

Awaiting clearance

A farmer drying paddy harvested during the *punja* season in Kottayam. The delay in clearing the dues of paddy procurement by the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation has affected the preparations for the monsoon crops. VISHNU PRATHAP

Police rescue baby girl given away by tribal parents in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

A baby girl allegedly sold by her tribal parents in Eluru district of Andhra Pradesh, was rescued by the police on Friday.

The baby girl was allegedly sold for ₹2 lakh to a couple from West Godavari district.

Following a complaint lodged by the Women Development and Child Welfare (WD&CW) Department officials, the Nuzid Rural police registered a case and took up investigation.

The baby's parents belong to Ogirala Thanda in Nuzvid Rural mandal. Daravati Vasundara was delivered of the baby, her third girl child, in November.

The baby was allegedly sold for ₹2 lakh to a couple in West Godavari through some mediators

Three days after delivery, her husband Daravatu Murthy, a Lambada tribal, allegedly sold the baby to the couple through some mediators, with the knowledge of the family members, said Child Development Project Officer Nurani.

The police rescued the baby and handed it over to the WD&CW officials, said Nuzvid Rural SI T. Ramakrishna. Ms. Vasundara, who visited the police station on Friday, staged a dharna at her house seeking her baby.

'Condition stable'
"The baby was produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and was later shifted to the government-run Sishu Gruha," District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Ch. Surya Chakraveni told *The Hindu* on Saturday. "The condition of the baby is stable," she added.

Sri Lankan, Indian navies striving to curb drug flow: Priyantha Perera

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

Expert scrutiny: Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera, Commander of the Sri Lankan Navy, reviewing the passing-out parade at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, in Kannur on Saturday.

The Sri Lankan Navy is working closely with the Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy to check smuggling of drugs and contraband substances through their territorial sea and international maritime routes, Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera, Commander of the Sri Lankan Navy, has said.

He was speaking on the sidelines of the passing-out parade held at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, on Saturday. Mr. Perera was the chief guest at the ceremony in which 207 trainees, including eight cadets from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Madagascar, Mauritius, and the Maldives, passed out.

"Just like India, Sri Lanka, which is dealing with drug smuggling through our territorial sea, has an international obligation to curtail the menace," he said, when asked about the recent seizure of drugs from a large vessel near the Kerala coast in a joint operation by the Narcotics Control Bureau and Indian Navy.

Mr. Perera dismissed India's apprehensions about the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka being used for military purposes after a Chinese ship, capable of tracking satellites and missiles, docked at the port. "Hambantota port is purely for commercial purposes and there is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Port Authority of Sri Lanka and private companies. However, it is wrongly being portrayed as a Chinese harbour across the world," he said.

Medals awarded
Earlier in the day, Vice Admiral Perera awarded medals to meritorious midshipmen and cadets.

Do not arrest Avinash Reddy till final orders: HC

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Justice M. Laxman of the Telangana High Court on Saturday directed the CBI officials not to arrest till Wednesday Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy of the YSRCP, who applied for anticipatory bail in the murder case of former A.P. Minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy.

While passing the direction on Saturday, the judge said the final orders would be pronounced in the criminal petition filed by the MP on Wednesday.

From Page One

A new House, again in red sandstone

With the old, it was the fact that British architect Herbert Baker imagined it as a triangular building with chambers of varying shapes within.

His design was rejected after scathing criticism from architect Edwin Lutyens. Lutyens pictured a wheel-like structure that Baker had to finally follow, with an open veranda, 800 metres long, and 144 columns.

The new Lok Sabha can seat 888 members, with the capacity to expand it to 1,272 during joint sessions of Parliament, while the Rajya Sabha will seat 384. Both chambers are roughly three times bigger than those in the earlier Parliament House. The old Lower House chamber had a significantly inadequate 148-member capacity at inception, necessitating remodelling for expansion in the 1950s, with the first floor added in the 1960s. The increased floor space came at the cost of aesthetics and convenience, with many seats placed behind the 12 pillars that hold up the building. Similarly, the Upper House could initially accommodate only 86 members, and alterations were made to increase its capacity to 250.

There are now 92 chambers for Cabinet Ministers and party offices. Traditionally, the real estate was allotted as a measure of hierarchy, with the more powerful portfolios getting larger rooms and with a suite for the Prime Minister.

'Disruption proof'

Cushioned seats with desks are provided for members, with two people to a seating unit. Each seat has a biometric-based digital voting console and a smart screen for members to access documents. Interiors have been made "disruption proof", with the Chairperson and Speaker's seat placed at a higher elevation than in the old building, making it difficult for Opposition members to wave placards in their faces. The reporters' table, where key officials in charge of running the administration of Parliament sit, now has a wooden barricade running all around it.

Nearly every State has contributed something to the new Parliament. The teakwood came from Maharashtra, the sandstone from Rajasthan, the carpets from Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh, and bamboo flooring from Tripura. However, Gunjesh Kumar, 32, an electrician from Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, who claims to have fitted 5,000 lights in the new building, said, "Politicians make rhetorical statements against China and go on a rampage against small shops selling Chinese-made goods. But I was shocked to see many of the fittings in the new Parliament are made in China. They don't practise what they preach."

PM calls upon CMs to work as 'Team India'

The CMs of 11 States, including 10 from States not ruled by the BJP, did not participate, citing various reasons. The NITI Aayog meeting comes a day before the inauguration of the new Parliament building that is being boycotted by 20 Opposition parties in a coordinated move.

The Prime Minister said NITI Aayog could play a critical role in helping the States to develop their strategies for the next 25 years and align the same with the national development agenda.

He urged the States and Union Territories to work with the NITI Aayog so that the country could take a quantum leap towards achieving its vision for "*Amritkaal*". Mr. Modi said NITI Aayog was taking up multiple initiatives for strengthening cooperative and competitive federalism like the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP). Both the programmes showcased the power of working together as Centre, States and districts, and the impact of data-driven governance in improving the lives of common citizens at the grassroots.

Mr. Modi said while the G-20 presidency had brought glory to India on the world stage, it had also provided States the opportunity for global exposure.

The Chief Ministers and Lieutenant-Governors gave various policy suggestions and also took up issues requiring Centre-State cooperation. Some of the key suggestions and best practices highlighted by them were from areas like adopting green strategies, need for zone-wise planning, tourism, urban planning, agriculture, quality of workmanship and logistics.

The Opposition leaders blamed the Centre for not being flexible in accommodating their requests. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had asked for permission to send a representative Minister but the request was reportedly turned down. Her counterpart from Bihar, Nitish Kumar, too said that a request to change the timing of the meeting or sending a representative was not agreed to by the Centre.

Telangana's K. Chandrasekhar Rao boycotted the event as he had hosted Delhi and Punjab Chief Ministers Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann for a meeting in Hyderabad. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik cited prior commitments to give the meeting a miss.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin was away on an official tour to Japan and Singapore. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan did not cite any reason. From the four Congress-ruled States, Bhupesh Baghel (Chhattisgarh), and Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (Himachal Pradesh), attended the day-long meeting. However, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot gave the event miss, citing health reasons. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah could not participate as he had to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the newly inducted Ministers as part of his Cabinet expansion.

Sengol a symbol of transfer of power, but it didn't get due respect until now, says PM

The sceptre connects the glorious traditions of pre-colonial India to the future of Independent India, but it was kept on display as a 'walking stick' at a museum, says Modi; he highlights the role of Tamil Nadu in the freedom struggle and said the southern State was a bastion of Indian nationalism

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

In a scathing attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the *Sengol* (sceptre), which was a symbol of the transfer of power from the British in 1947, should have got its due respect after Independence, but was kept on display as a "walking stick" in a museum in Prayagraj.

Mr. Modi made the remarks after receiving a *Sengol* from Tamil Nadu *Adheenams* (heads of Hindu monasteries) at his residence here on the eve of the inauguration of the new Parliament building.

Mr. Modi said "your *sevak*" and the government have brought the *Sengol* out of Anand Bhavan. The sceptre holds significance not only because it was a sacred symbol of power transfer in 1947 but also because it connected the glorious traditions of pre-colonial India to the future of Independent India, the Prime Minister said.

Paying obeisance: Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting the *Adheenams* on the eve of the new Parliament building inauguration, in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Mr. Modi said a question had arisen over the symbol of transfer of power from the British in 1947 and under the guidance of the last Governor-General of India, C. Rajagopalachari, and the *Adheenams*, a virtuous path of power transfer through the *Sengol* was found from ancient Tamil culture.

At that time in 1947, the *Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam* created a special *Sengol*, he said.

"Today, pictures from that era are reminding us of the deep emotional bond between Tamil culture and India's destiny as a modern democracy. Today, the saga of this deep bond has come alive from the pages of history," Mr. Modi said.

The Congress claimed on Friday that there was no documentary evidence of Lord Mountbatten, Rajagopalachari and Jawaharlal Nehru describing the *Sengol* as a symbol of transfer of power from the British to India.

Mr. Modi highlighted the role of Tamil Nadu in the freedom struggle and said the southern State was a bastion of Indian nationalism.

Noting that the Tamil people have always had a spirit of service, he said, "It is very unfortunate that the contribution of the people of Tamil Nadu in India's Independence was not given the importance it should have been given."

He added that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had started raising this issue prominently.

Museum failed to identify *Sengol* because no one could translate text engraved in Tamil

Anuj Kumar
NEW DELHI

As the government prepares to install a *Sengol* (sceptre) gifted to India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on the eve of Independence, in the new Parliament, the mood is mixed at the Allahabad Museum in Prayagraj where it has been on display all these years.

While there is a sense of pride that a treasure housed by the museum for decades is now finding space in the home of Indian democracy, there is also a feeling that they could have labelled it correctly. Sources in the museum described the episode as an eye-opener, blaming their lack of trained and motivated staff for their delay in understanding the true identity and history of the sceptre.

Displayed in the Nehru Gallery of the museum as part of the personal collection of the first Prime Minister, the *Sengol* was wrongly labelled as a "Golden Walking stick gifted to Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru".

"It was brought by the founder curator S.C. Kala from Anand Bhavan when the museum building was constructed in 1954," said Waman Wankhede, the assistant curator who is in charge of the Nehru Gallery. The foundation stone of the museum was laid in 1947 by Nehru, who wanted his personal memorabilia to be conserved at the museum. Mr. Kala, who went on to become the museum's director, was said to have been close to Nehru.

The *Sengol* was brought from Anand Bhavan to the Allahabad Museum when it was constructed in 1954. FILE PHOTO

History of error

"In the GAR [General Accession Register], Mr. Kala had only mentioned that it was a gift and that it is made of brass sheet and polished with gold. There was no mention of Lord Mountbatten and there was no one in the team who could decipher the Tamil text that is engraved on the *Sengol* to put the date of August 14, 1947, in context. It seems the register kept on getting copied by Mr. Kala's successors till the jewellery company, Vummudi Bangaru, approached the previous curator and director incharge Sunil Gupta in 2021. It was taken away by government officials last November," Mr. Wankhede explained.

Mr. Gupta received a mail from the jewellery company, saying that they wanted to have a look at the stick and that it was created by them as a symbol of the transfer of power. "When we realised its significance and felt there is some merit in the claim of the company, we approached the local media, and a news item was carried. It spread the word," said Mr. Gupta, adding that the rest of the background must have been checked by the Ministries of Culture and Home. *Amar Ujala* journalist Anup Ojha who reported the news on March 2021 said that he had been immediately approached by Ministry officials.

Sceptres across history

Refusing to comment on the contradictions in the political narrative, Rajesh Kumar Mishra, who curates the artefacts of ancient Indian history at the museum, said that the tradition of a *Sengol* as the symbol of power was not limited to the Chola dynasty or even to South India.

"In the north, it is called *rajdanda* or *dharmadanda* and is an essential element of power that is passed on to the newly appointed king. It finds mention in Kalidasa's epic poem *Raghuvamsa*, which narrates the story of the Raghu dynasty from Dilipa to Ram," he said. "When Dilipa moved to the forest after embracing asceticism, he passed on the symbols of power to his son Raghu and the *rajdanda* was one of them," he added, noting that the sceptre can also be found on coins minted during Samudragupta's reign, where he can be seen holding it in his left hand.

Noted historian and Allahabad University professor Yogeshwar Tiwari pointed out that it was in Allahabad that the Queen's Proclamation was made public whereby India became a British colony in 1858. "It is a glorious coincidence that the symbol of the transfer of power to the people of India was also preserved in Allahabad and is now finding its rightful place in the new Parliament," he said.

Sources in the museum lamented the state of affairs as permanent staff have not been appointed after the retirement of expert hands.

"Outsourcing and interns can't run an institution of immense value. One day, someone will notice that we have more than a dozen original works of Russian artist Nicholas Roerich who had a strong Indian connection," said a senior official, requesting anonymity.

J&K parties against death penalty to Yasin Malik

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Several J&K parties on Saturday cautioned against granting capital punishment to incarcerated Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik, with the Delhi High Court likely to hear a plea filed for the same by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday.

Former J&K Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said that in a democracy like India where even the assassins of a Prime Minister were pardoned, the case of a political prisoner like Yasin Malik must be reviewed and reconsidered.

Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Lone and J&K Apni Party leader Junaid Azaim Mattu also warned against the NIA move. "The NIA plea on Yasin Malik is dangerous,"Mr. Lone said.

On Friday, the NIA moved the Delhi High Court and sought capital punishment or death penalty for Mr. Malik, at present lodged at the Tihar Jail, in a terror funding case.

Manipur Cong. team in Delhi to meet Murmu

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI/IMPHAL

A team of the Congress, Manipur's Opposition party, will meet President Droupadi Murmu to apprise her of the situation in the State toward a faster resolution of the crisis.

Former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh said party leaders Gaikhangam and Th Lokeshwor are in New Delhi to seek an appointment with the President.

"The Central leaders would not have stayed indifferent had the crisis in Manipur happened in other big States. Even if Prime Minister Narendra Modi is preoccupied with other official works, he could have sent a representative to Imphal soon after the May 3 incident," Mr. Singh told journalists in Imphal.

"It is already late but efforts need to be made for lasting peace," he said.

Army chief begins two-day visit to Manipur to assess ground situation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Army chief General Manoj Pande reached Manipur on Saturday on a two-day visit. He will interact with the local formation commanders and obtain a first-hand account of the situation on the ground, the Army said.

The Army and the Assam Rifles launched multiple search operations in the Kangchuk, Motbung, Saikul, Pukhao and Sagolmang areas of Manipur in the early hours of Saturday to track down any armed insurgents operating in these areas.

As the internal security situation worsened in Manipur, the State administration had requisitioned the Army and the Assam Rifles on May 3 for deployment of troops. "Army and Assam Rifles deployed 135 columns to diffuse the situation by carrying out active domination of sensitive and fringe areas. Approximately 35,000 civilians were evacuated to safe zones and humanitarian aid was provisioned," the Army said in a statement.

Gen. Manoj Pande (third from right) with Governor of Manipur Anusuiya Uikey at Raj Bhavan in Imphal on Saturday. ANI

Restoring normalcy

On Sunday, Gen. Pande will meet Governor Anusuiya Uikey, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Chief Security Adviser Kuldiep Singh to discuss and deliberate on the current situation and future trajectory, in order to restore normalcy at the earliest, the statement added.

The Army's Dimapur-based 3 Corps said on Twitter that the operations are part of overall ongoing efforts by the Army and the Assam Rifles to restore peace and normalcy in the State. "Army columns are using latest technology weapons and other force multipliers while operating in the forested mountainous areas," it stated.

On Friday too, security forces intensified domination across the State. Army teams in Imphal East and Churachandpur had prevented a firing incident between the two communities as armed miscreants fired shots. However, no casualties were reported.

Constructive dialogue

Earlier this week, Eastern Army Commander Lt. Gen R.P. Kalita was on a three-day visit to Manipur to assess and review the security situation.

He visited Kangpokpi, Matripukhri, Churachandpur, Bishnupur, Yaingangpokpi and Moreh. "During his meetings with local stakeholders, including members from all communities and several civil society organisations, the Eastern Army Commander urged suspension of hostilities by all sections of society. He urged the people of Manipur to carry out constructive dialogue to ensure lasting peace in the region," a tweet from 3 Corps said.

Mamata meets kin of victims of firecracker factory blast

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Eleven days after an explosion at an illegal firecracker factory in Khadikul village in West Bengal claimed 11 lives, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday visited the village and apologised to the people for the incident.

"I bow my head in front of you and apologise for this incident," the Chief Minister said. She distributed cheques of ₹2.5 lakh as compensation to family members of the deceased and promised that one member of each family would get a job as a home guard under the West Bengal Police.

However, Opposition parties slammed the apology. "This is a fake apology. If the CM was moved by the plight of the victims, then she should have gone earlier," CPI(M) leader Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi paying tribute to India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary on Saturday. PTI

Nehru's legacy serves as beacon for the idea of India: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As Congress leaders paid rich tributes to India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary on Saturday, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge said India of the 21st century cannot be imagined without the contribution of Nehru.

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi said the legacy of the country's first Prime Minister continues to serve as a beacon for the idea of India and for values such as secularism, freedom and democracy.

Mr. Kharge, Mr. Gandhi and senior leaders K.C.Venugopal and Pawan Bansal also visited Pandit Nehru's memorial at Shanti Van and paid floral tributes to him.

"India of the 21st century cannot be imagined without the contribution of Jawaharlal Nehru. A fearless defender of democracy, his progressive ideas strongly propelled India's social, political and economic development despite challenges," the Congress president said.

Mr. Gandhi tweeted, "Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's legacy stands tall, like a beacon, illuminating the idea of India and the values he dedicated his life for - freedom, democracy, secularism and modernity. His vision and values always guide our conscience and actions".

Boycott of NITI meeting by CMs an irresponsible act: BJP

It will hinder the pace of development in those States, says Prasad, adding that governing council meetings give an opportunity to Centre and States to identify key issues and resolve them jointly

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Boycotting the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting by the Opposition parties is equal to boycotting the States' development and is a highly irresponsible act, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Saturday.

He said that the Chief Ministers of several States, including Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), M.K. Stalin (Tamil Nadu), K. Chandrasekhar Rao (Telangana), Nitish Kumar (Bihar), Bhagwant Singh Mann (Punjab) and Arvind Kejriwal (Delhi), did not attend the eighth NITI Aayog meeting on Saturday.

"It is being said that Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is not coming due to ill health, but what is the exact truth, we don't know. How many Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled States will attend the meeting of NITI Aayog, it will be known after the meeting," Mr. Prasad said.

Noting that more than 100 issues had been identified for discussion at the meeting, he said the absence of the Chief Ministers at the meeting would hinder the pace of development in those States.

Narendra Modi chairs the eighth Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog on Saturday. PTI

'Opportunity to work'

The former Union Minister said the governing council meetings give an opportunity to the Centre and the States to identify key developmental issues and resolve them jointly.

In the seven such meetings held till date, numerous issues were discussed and resolved.

In the last meeting, nearly 40 key areas were identified and the same were being jointly implemented by the Centre, the States and the Union Territories.

"For the eighth Governing Council meeting, over 100 issues have been identified to be discussed at the national level. This will be an opportunity for the Centre and the States to work together as Team India and achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 – Reaching the last mile," he said.

Mr. Prasad said people of the States whose Chief Ministers boycott the meeting would not be able to reap benefits of discussions and decisions on minimising compliances, Gati Shakti, modern infrastructure, MSME and skill development.

"There is a rich legacy of action taken and citizen welfare from the road map laid down by the previous GC meetings. So, the absence of the States in this important meeting will definitely block the pace of their development," he added.

The Opposition parties alleged that the BJP did not respect institutions but the truth was that insulting the institutions of the country had become a habit of the Opposition, he said.

"The parties that are not attending this meeting today, have in the past opposed the CAG, the Election Commission of India, the CEC, and the election process of the country," he said. He asked the Opposition parties how far they would go against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "They must keep this in mind that there is still one year left for the Lok Sabha election and political battles can be fought at that time; it is not right to fight a political battle with the NITI Aayog."

Telangana CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao with Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, right, and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann in Hyderabad. NAGARA GOPAL

KCR lends support to Kejriwal to defeat Delhi Bill in RS

N. Rahul
HYDERABAD

A meeting of Chief Ministers K. Chandrasekhar Rao, Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Singh Mann here on Saturday resolved to defeat in the Rajya Sabha a Bill on the control of services in Delhi.

After the meeting, they told reporters they would unite the Opposition parties to defeat the Bill in the Rajya Sabha. The BJP has only 93 members in the House of 238.

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said the Ordinance issued by the Centre was an insult to the people of Delhi who elected the Aam Aadmi Party thrice since 2015. "They will teach the NDA government a fitting lesson if it failed to withdraw the Ordinance. In any case, the government was known for making such laws and withdrawing them," he said.

"This is worse than Emergency days when then PM Indira Gandhi enacted a constitutional amendment to nullify a judgment of Allahabad High Court. But, people showed her the door," Mr. Rao said.

"The BJP under Mr. Modi is in Emergency mode and worse still as it refused to honour the verdict of Supreme Court but challenged people's mandate to a pro-poor party. It is a question of existence of democracy and Constitution," he said.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said it was ironic that the powers of his government on transfer and posting of officers were withdrawn while they flourished in the previous regime headed by Sheila Dixit.

As Chief Minister, he was in a helpless situation even to transfer the Education Secretary.

Punjab Chief Minister Mann said, like in Telangana, the Governor in his State also stopped Bills passed by the Assembly.

'BJP fears caste census will disturb Hindutva campaign'

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister says the BJP's electoral successes depend on playing up religious differences and they fear that once caste census data is out, they will not be able to corral voters under the larger Hindutva umbrella; he says BJP is targeting him and son through various Central agencies

INTERVIEW

Bhupesh Baghel

Sobhana K. Nair

With the Assembly election around the corner, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel speaks about the investigations in corruption cases against him, his government's Ramayana festival, and the implications of the Karnataka Assembly election results. Edited excerpts:

The Chhattisgarh Assembly election is due in six months. Are you returning as Chief Minister?

Congress is returning. It is up to the party leadership on who they deem fit for the post. But I can say with complete confidence that the Congress will win a comfortable majority.

Why is the Congress insisting on a caste census? Why do we need it?

The caste census is essential to assess which community or caste group has not got the benefits of reservation that has been extended to the group as a whole. This will help in identifying the vulnerable groups that need more assistance and a helping hand from the government. The BJP's electoral successes are entirely dependent on instigating the voter by playing up religious differences. They fear that once the caste census data is out, they will not be able to corral the voters under the larger and all-encompassing Hindutva umbrella.

Your government has been in the news for various corruption cases being investigated by the Central agencies and now fingers are being pointed at you and your family, especially your son. How do you defend yourself?

I am the only target. It is not about finding the wrongdoing or charging the guilty. They have been laying the ground since 2020. They are forcing people to implicate me and my son. They are coercing witnesses by force and also blackmailing them to name us. Things have

come to such a head that the ED [Enforcement Directorate] officials have shifted along with their families to Raipur. They [BJP] want to target me because I am a farmer, because I belong to a backward caste. They claim that the coal levy scam is worth ₹500 crore and the excise scam is worth ₹2000 crore. My question is, how many accused have they arrested so far?

But how do you counter the narrative that these investigations create about your government being corrupt?

My government is transferring cash directly to the farmers, labourers and owners of small enterprises as part of our economic assistance programme. My predecessor, the Raman Singh government, used to take commission for every welfare scheme they delivered, whether they were distributing cycles or chappals.

Next month, your government is organising a three-day Ramayana festival. Why are you borrowing from the BJP playbook of Hindutva politics?

The Ramayana is part of the Chhattisgarhi culture. This is Lord Rama's maternal house. All that we are doing is preserving and promoting our culture.

How do you see the Congress's victory in Karnataka?

First, we won Himachal Pradesh, which is a Hindu-majority State. Then we displaced the BJP government in Karnataka where once again they played the bugle of Hindutva during the campaign. In both States, the BJP had to face a humiliating defeat. They were talking about Congress-*mukt* Bharat and the voters delivered a BJP-*mukt* India. The BJP is going to lose in the upcoming Assembly polls in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Rajasthan.
(Full interview on shorturl.at/qLP12)

Ministers present nine-year progress card of Modi govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

While previous regimes saw scams, this government worked for the poor, says Vaishnaw

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday made a presentation comparing the performance of Central governments before 2014 with that of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to highlight its achievements in various sectors during the last nine years.

Inaugurating a day-long conclave '9 Saal - Seva, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan' to mark the completion of nine years of the Modi government, Mr. Vaishnaw said the previous governance efforts had become synonymous with scams, while the current government worked with the ethos of "*pai pai se gareeb ki bhalai*" (every penny for the benefit of the poor).

Listing the government's accomplishments, the Minister said 3.50 crore houses had been constructed under the PM Awas Yojana, 12 crore people given water connections, 9.60 crore provided with gas cylinders and 11.72 crore toilets had been constructed. Following the COVID-19 outbreak, free ration was being given to about 80 crore people.

Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the past nine years had seen a dramatic change in the life of the common people.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Modi government took every Indian seriously – whether s/he was in India or abroad. Every citizen was heard and responded to, she said.

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Recruitment Examination

Date of Computer based test	Duration of Examination	Examination cities
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JIPMER, Puducherry - Mentor Institute

No. JIP/Admn-I/Rect./1(38)/AIIMS-MDU/NF/2023 **Dated: 28.05.2023**

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Madurai, an Autonomous Institute of National Importance is one of the new AIIMS and an apex healthcare Institute established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). JIPMER, Puducherry has been designated as the Mentor Institute for AIIMS, Madurai. Applications are invited from eligible officers for filling up the following Group A, B & C posts (on deputation basis) for AIIMS, Madurai given as under:

No.	Name of the Post	Group	Pay Matrix (as per 7th CPC)	Vacancy
1.	Registrar	A	Level-12 (₹78800-209200)	1
2.	Assistant Controller of Examination	A	Level-11 (₹67700-208700)	1
3.	Accounts Officer	A	Level-10 (₹56100-177500)	1
4.	Assistant Administrative Officer	B	Level-7 (₹44900-142400)	1
5.	Executive Assistant (N.S.)	B	Level-6 (₹35400-112400)	1
6.	Personal Assistant	B	Level-6 (₹35400-112400)	2
7.	Upper Division Clerk	C	Level-4 (₹25500-81100)	2

The format of the application, other details regarding pay scale, age, qualification, experience and other conditions of eligibility etc. for the posts are available on **www.jipmer.edu.in/aiims-madurai**
The last date for receipt of filled in application is **24.07.2023 (Monday) till 4.30 P.M.**
Executive Director
AIIMS, Madurai

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
GATISHAKTI UNIT / TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION
E-Tender Notice No. GS-TPJ-11-2023 Dated: 24.05.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Chief Project Manager / Gatishakti Unit / Tiruchchirappalli invites ONLINE tenders for the following works.

Item No.	Tender No.	Name of the Works
1	GS-TPJ-11-2023-01	Civil works related to Up-gradation of **VILLUPURAM** (VM) Railway Junction under "Amrit Bharat Station Scheme"
2	GS-TPJ-11-2023-02	Electrical works related to Up-gradation of **VILLUPURAM** (VM) Railway Junction under "Amrit Bharat Station Scheme"

Item No.	Tender No.	Cash value (in ₹)	Validity offer	Closing Date & Time	Period of completion (in months)
1	GS-TPJ-11-2023-01	8,60,63,560.56	60 days	12.06.2023 11.00 hrs.	8 months
2	GS-TPJ-11-2023-02	79,93,680	60 days	15.06.2023 11.00 hrs.	8 months

If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.
The detailed Tender Notices, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tenders issued, can be accessed through **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

INBRIEF

Stop atrocities and illegal action against Azam Khan: SP

Days after the acquittal of Azam Khan by a Rampur court in the 2019 hate speech case, the Samajwadi Party on Saturday met the District Magistrate of Rampur and alleged that the police were harassing the advocates and witnesses in the case. A delegation of the party complained that the police have filed "false and motivated cases" against Mr. Khan. It alleged the district administration had forcibly picked up advocates and witnesses in cases against Mr. Khan and locked them after May 24. The delegation further claimed that fearing the electoral successes of the SP, the BJP government was trying to defame and humiliate the senior leaders of the party.

Direct PFRDA to return NPS money: Himachal to Centre

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday urged the Centre to issue directions to the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) to return the amount of ₹9,242.6 crore deposited under the National Pension Scheme (NPS) by the State government. The Congress government, on coming to power, had decided to implement the Old Pension Scheme for government employees, who were covered under the National Pension System (NPS), and hence the State government has been demanding the PFRDA to return the NPS amount.

DU decides to drop Iqbal from political science syllabus

The Academic Council of Delhi University has passed a proposal to drop references to Urdu scholar Muhammad Iqbal from the political science syllabus for undergraduates. Announcing the decision, Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh, who presided over the meeting, said that those "who laid the foundation to break India should not be in the syllabus". Students studied Iqbal as part of a chapter titled "Modern Indian political thought". Mr. Singh said, "Iqbal wrote songs supporting the Muslim League and the Pakistan Movement. Iqbal was the first to raise the idea of Partition of India and establishment of Pakistan. Instead of teaching about such persons, we should study our national heroes."

18 govt. schools in Punjab's Sunam get robotic labs

All the 18 government senior secondary schools in the Sunam Assembly constituency of Punjab have been equipped with futuristic robotic labs, State Skill Development and Training Minister Aman Arora said on Saturday. "These futuristic robotic labs will help pupils to get hands-on training in the latest technology areas such as robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), 3D printing, basics of Electronics, and so on," Mr. Arora said, and asserted that Sunam was probably the first Assembly constituency in the country to have equipped all government senior secondary schools with such hi-tech and futuristic labs.

SUDOKU

		9		2				
	8		9		1			6
7		4			5			
	3	5		8				7
	7						1	
2				1		8	3	
			7			6		5
4			1		2		9	
				9		7		

No.SS5812 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	9	6	1	7	3	8	5	4
4	3	7	9	8	5	6	1	2
5	8	1	6	2	4	3	9	7
3	4	2	7	5	9	1	8	6
8	7	9	3	1	6	4	2	5
1	6	5	2	4	8	9	7	3
6	5	3	8	9	7	2	4	1
7	1	8	4	3	2	5	6	9
9	2	4	5	6	1	7	3	8

U.K. Minister Tariq begins India visit

He will focus on technology and innovation partnerships as well as discuss G-20 agenda; he is scheduled to visit cultural sites and high-tech research facilities during the four-day trip, the first high-level visit after the pro-Khalistan protests outside the Indian High Commission in London

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

U.K. Minister of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs Tariq Ahmad began a visit to India on Saturday, in the first such senior-level visit since tensions over violent pro-Khalistan protests outside the Indian High Commission in London in March.

The four-day visit also follows days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak met warmly in Hiroshima, indicating the détente in ties.

Mr. Ahmad, called "Lord Ahmad" in the U.K., who deals with South Asia among other regions, began his trip from Jodhpur on Saturday. He will also visit Delhi and Hyderabad and is expected to focus on technology and innovation projects in India.

"Building on the 2030 road map for India-U.K. future relations, we are deepening our collaboration on science and technology, bringing new innovations to both our nations," Mr. Ahmad said, according to a release by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Saturday. During his tour, he will visit both cultural sites and high-tech research facilities, to "accelerate U.K.-India collaboration on science, technology and health", including technology start-ups at the innovation campus in Hyderabad, a space launch vehicle company and the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, the release said.

Deferred visit

Mr. Ahmad, who visited India in different capacities in the past, was last in Delhi in 2021, to discuss cooperation on climate change. However, a planned visit to India in June 2022 was deferred at the last minute, reportedly due to concerns by the Ministry of External Affairs that he would, in his previous capacity as Minister for Human Rights, raise issues over religious freedom in India ahead of a Ministerial conference in the U.K. on the Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB).

File picture of Tariq Ahmad meeting External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On this visit, however, Mr. Ahmad, who is the U.K. Minister of State for the Middle East, South Asia, United Nations and the Prime Minister Sunak's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, is expected to focus on "strengthening science, research and innovation links", and will discuss India's G-20 agenda ahead of the summit in September, which Mr. Sunak will attend.

Sources said the U.K. is also exploring possibilities for a separate standalone bilateral visit by Mr. Sunak this year, especially as both countries seek to seal a free trade agreement (FTA).

"With India's presidency of the G-20, we have an opportunity also for the U.K. and India to work together to shape and deliver solutions to global problems," U.K. Acting High Commissioner Christina Scott said in a statement about the visit.

The U.K. is also looking for a separate standalone bilateral visit by Rishi Sunak this year, say sources

Ancestral connect

While in Jodhpur, Mr. Ahmad will visit the Mehrangarh fort as well as places with ancestral links, officials said, as his mother was born in Jodhpur, while his father was born in Gurdaspur, Punjab.

In Delhi, he will meet with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, and G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant, in what will be seen as an opportunity to discuss bilateral issues and smooth over ties.

The violence at the Indian High Commission in London on March 19, where pro-Khalistan separatist protesters broke windows and forcibly removed the Tricolour, had led to outrage in New Delhi. The Ministry of External Affairs had then issued a formal demarche accusing the U.K. of not providing the mission adequate security despite repeated requests, and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) opened its own inquiry into the incident. In what was seen as a retaliatory gesture, the police in Delhi also withdrew security barricades placed outside the British High Commission.

However, since then, relations have been restored, after the London metropolitan police increased presence around the mission, and the British High Commissioner Alex Ellis expressed regret, saying more recently that he too would have been "equally angry" over such an incident.

After the incident, U.K. National Security Adviser Tim Barrow visited India at the end of March, but to attend the G-20 Sherpa meet in Kerala.

Rights groups demand questions on disability should remain in NFHS-6

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Amid fears that the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6), due to commence in July, could be dropping questions on disability from its survey questionnaire, disability rights activists are demanding immediate correction and inclusion.

Activists say that while the NFHS-5 (2019-21) had questions related to disability and had collected data on disabilities, "information from reliable sources confirm that the NFHS-6 has dropped questions on disability from its survey questionnaire".

The Health Ministry did not respond to the query by *The Hindu* seeking comments on the issue.

The NFHS is a large-scale, multi-round survey providing essential data on health and family welfare, as needed by the Health Ministry and other agencies, for policy and programme purposes, and to provide information on important emerging health and family welfare issues.

The Disability Rights India Foundation (DRIF), a non-profit organisation working in the area of disabilities rights, in its communication, said that "disability disaggregated data is the cornerstone for disability relevant services" in any country.

Inclusive survey: The NFHS-5 had questions related to disability and had collected data on disabilities. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Countries world over and the United Nations and other international bodies, are now developing toolkits and strategies to broaden their disability database.

"In India, we can use our existing mechanisms and the NFHS is well placed to collect disability-related data. However, it will be an opportunity lost by not including disability in its forthcoming NFHS-6 survey, which is scheduled to commence from July 2023. While NFHS-5 had disability related questions and collected data on disabilities, information from reliable sources confirm that NFHS-6 has dropped questions on disability from its survey questionnaire," the DRIF said.

The group added that going forward, the NFHS needs to sharpen its questionnaire on the disability front and make it more relevant by consulting people with disabilities, but it has reversed the process by removing disability-related questions altogether.

'Against principle'

Seeking the immediate intervention of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and NITI Aayog to facilitate the inclusion of questions on disability in the NFHS-6 in consultation with persons with disabilities, the group has said that at the national level, the decision to remove disability-related questions from its survey contradicted its principle of "leave no one behind" under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

"It is particularly regressive given that India is also a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," it noted.

Satendra Singh, disability rights activist and doctor at the University College of Medical Sciences and Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital, Delhi, said that people with disabilities in India experience an average loss of 10-17 years in life expectancy, according to the 2022 Missing Billion Report on 'Reimagining Health Systems'.

"So closing the life expectancy gap for the world's largest minority group requires access to comprehensive health data. The recent World Health Organization global report on health equity for persons with disabilities also emphasises the importance of monitoring indicators to promote health equity for our community. It is crucial to ensure that our needs and experiences are acknowledged and accounted for. We must bridge the disconnect between data collection and the effective design of policies," Dr. Singh said.

IS terror cell busted, three arrested in M.P. following raids: NIA

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

A terror module linked to the Islamic State was busted with the arrest of three persons following overnight raids at 13 locations in Jabalpur, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said on Saturday.

A joint operation led by intelligence wings was executed in coordination with the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of the Madhya Pradesh Police.

The searches were carried out on the night of May 26-27. The arrested accused have been identified as Syed Mamoor Ali, Mohammad Adil Khan and Mohammad Shahid. Sharp-edged weapons, ammunition, incriminating documents and digital devices were seized.

On May 24, the NIA registered a case as part of its investigations into the pro-IS activities of accused Adil Khan, who came under the agency's scanner in August 2022. The agency found that Mr. Khan and his associates were allegedly involved in disseminating IS propaganda through social media platforms. They held *"dawah"* programmes.

"The module had been conducting meetings/*'dars'* in local masjids and houses and hatching plans and conspiracies to spread terror in the country," the NIA said in a statement on Saturday.

A joint operation led by intelligence wings was executed in coordination with the M.P. Police's ATS

'Highly radicalised'

According to the agency, the three accused were highly radicalised and determined to carry out "violent *jihad*".

"They were engaged in collecting funds, disseminating ISIS propaganda material, motivating and recruiting youth, and trying to procure arms and ammunition with the objective of carrying out terrorist acts," it said.

"A staunch ISIS follower and supporter, Adil had managed to assemble an active group of Jabalpur-based like-minded radicalised individuals. Some of the module members were already contemplating 'hijrat' [flight] to conflict theatres, while others had plans to form a local outfit for carrying out violent 'jihad' in India...," the agency said.

40 lakh *Pariksha Pe Charcha* applicants to get PM's letter

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

In an outreach exercise to 40 lakh students following the declaration of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) exam results earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is writing letters of appreciation to those who had applied to participate in *Pariksha Pe Charcha*. The letters are also being addressed to the applicants' parents.

Since 2018, Mr. Modi has been holding the annual event to interact with school students, teachers and parents to share tips on remaining stress-free during the Board exams. Every year, students from Classes 9 to 12 participate in a competition online by registering on the mygov.in website and respond to questions based on themes such as "Know your freedom fighters", "Our culture, our pride", "My start-up dream" and so on. In 2023, close to 40 lakh students applied, of which 2,400 teachers and students were selected to attend the January 27 event in person.

Sources told *The Hindu* that the National Book Trust (NBT), an apex body under the Ministry of Education, has now been assigned the responsibility of printing, translating and posting the letter penned by Mr. Modi to addresses of students across India. *The Hindu* accessed a copy of the letter.

Reaching out: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the *Pariksha Pe Charcha*, 2023 in New Delhi. ANI/PIB

For a better India

In personalised letters addressed to each student, Mr. Modi thanks students for participating in *Pariksha Pe Charcha* and writes, "The next 25 years signify the *Amritkaal* for India, in which we must move ahead with a vow to transform India into a developed and a self-sustaining nation... Be it entrepreneurship, medicine, sports, start-ups and many such fields, there is no dearth of resources and opportunities for youngsters to carve their future in any of these sectors."

The enclosures include a certificate bearing Mr. Modi's signature, listing out five vows for a prosperous India – working towards its development, getting rid of the mentality of slavery, taking pride in Indian culture, strengthening unity and a priority towards duties.

Up to 6.5 lakh letters are being translated into Gujarati, 2.43 lakh into Assamese, and a similar number into Marathi. Among the other regional languages in which letters will be sent are Tamil (83,062), Bangla (63,226), Odia (55,499), Malayalam (43,615) and Telugu (26,917).

According to the Ministry, expenses for organising five editions of the PM's annual event from 2018 to 2022 amounted to over ₹28 crore. The expenditure on organising the event has increased year on year from ₹3.67 crore in 2018 to ₹4.93 crore in 2019, ₹5.69 crore in 2020 and ₹6 crore in 2021. In 2022, there was a nearly 122% increase in the spending from 2018, at ₹8.16 crore.

The Ministry did not respond to *The Hindu*'s query on the expenses on the letter distribution and the 2023 *Pariksha Pe Charcha*.

BELGRADE

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic quits as head of ruling party

AFP

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic stepped down as the leader of his party on Saturday after more than a decade at the helm. Vucic's Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) has been regularly accused of corruption and has recently come under increased pressure from mass protests over two shootings. AFP

BRUSSELS

Twitter decides to leave European Union's disinformation code

REUTERS

Twitter has decided to leave the EU's disinformation code but "its obligations remain," EU Industry Commissioner Thierry Breton said. The voluntary pact was written by the industry players and contains over three dozen pledges such as cooperation with fact-checkers and not promoting actors distributing disinformation. AFP

BEIJING

Three Chinese warships pass through Taiwan Strait, says Taipei

AP

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said that it detected three Chinese warships, including the Shandong aircraft carrier, passing through the Taiwan Strait, as Beijing keeps up pressure on the self-ruled island it claims as its own. The Ministry said it was monitoring the movements of the ships and will respond accordingly. AP

KATHMANDU

Nepal PM Prachanda to start his four-day visit to India on May 31

REUTERS

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' will travel to India on Wednesday on a four-day visit for talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. This will be Prachanda's first bilateral visit abroad after assuming office last December. The 68-year-old leader will be accompanied by his daughter Ganga Dahal. PTI

Ukraine asks Germany for long-range missiles

Reuters
BERLIN

Ukraine has asked Germany to supply it with Taurus cruise missiles, an air-launched weapon with a range of some 500 km, a spokesperson for the Defence Ministry in Berlin said on Saturday.

The spokesperson declined to say how likely it was that Germany would supply the missiles. If it supplies the missiles, Germany would be following in the footsteps of Britain.

The U.S. has so far declined to supply Ukraine with the 297-km range Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) missiles amid concerns that Ukraine could use them to strike inside Russia's borders.

'Ukrainian drones attack Russian oil pipeline stations'

A station serving the Druzhba oil pipeline that sends crude oil to Europe came under attacks, according to Russian media; Kyiv has not publicly acknowledged launching strikes

Reuters
MOSCOW

Ukraine struck oil pipeline installations deep inside Russia on Saturday with a series of drone attacks including on a station serving the vast Druzhba oil pipeline that sends Western Siberian crude to Europe, according to Russian media.

Ukrainian drone attacks inside Russia have been growing in intensity in recent weeks, and the *New York Times* reported that U.S. intelligence believes Ukraine was behind a drone attack on the Kremlin earlier this month.

Training the guns: A Ukrainian officer prepares to fire in a Panzerhaubitze 2000 howitzer in Bakhmut on Saturday. AP

Ukraine has not publicly acknowledged launching attacks against targets inside Russia. The Ukrainian Defence Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Saturday. In the Tver region, which lies just northwest of Moscow, two drones attacked a station that serves the Druzhba (Friendship) pipeline, one of the world's largest oil pipelines, the *Kommersant* newspaper said.

The Tver local council said that a drone had crashed near the village of Erokhino, around 500 km from the border with Ukraine. The Telegram channel Baza, which has good sources among Russia's security services, said the drones attacked a station serving the Druzhba pipeline. Druzhba, built by the Soviet Union, has capacity to pump more than 2 million barrels per day but has been severely under-utilised after Europe sought to reduce its dependency on Russian energy after President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine last year.

Iraq unveils $17-bn project linking Europe, West Asia

Agence France-Presse
BAGHDAD

Iraq on Saturday presented an ambitious plan to turn itself into a regional transportation hub by developing its road and rail infrastructure, linking Europe with the Middle East.

Once completed, the $17-billion project known as the "Route of Development" would span the length of the country, stretching 1,200 kilometres from the northern border with Turkey to the Gulf in the south.

Prime Minister Mohamed Shia al-Sudani announced the project during a conference with Transport Ministry representatives from Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and the UAE.

Route map: Iraqi Prime Minister Mohamed Shia al-Sudani at a meeting with the Transport Ministry officials in Baghdad. AFP

"We see this project as a pillar of a sustainable non-oil economy, a link that serves Iraq's neighbours and the region," Mr. Sudani said.

The project could be completed in "three to five years", officials said.

Work has already started to increase capacity at the commercial port of Al-Faw, on the shores of the Gulf, where cargo is to be unloaded before it embarks on the new road and rail links. The project also includes the construction of around 15 train stations along the route, including in the major cities of Basra, Baghdad and Mosul, and up to the Turkish border.

Two killed as Afghan, Iran forces clash near border

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

Two persons were killed on Saturday when clashes broke out between Taliban and Iranian forces at the Afghan-Iranian border, Taliban authorities said, as the neighbours argue over water rights.

The Iranian police confirmed the incident without giving details of casualties, while local news agency Mehr reported one Iranian border guard had been killed. Both sides blamed the other for shooting first.

"In the clash, one person was killed on each side and many were injured," tweeted the Taliban's Interior Ministry spokesman about the incident.

"The matter has been brought into the notice of the leaders on both sides and now the situation is under control," the spokesman said.

Erdogan pays homage to his idol on the eve of Turkey polls

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

He had paid a similar symbolic visit to the iconic Hagia Sophia mosque on the eve of the first round

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan paid homage to his executed Islamic predecessor on Saturday in a last-gasp attempt to rally his conservative base on the eve of a historic runoff election.

Mr. Erdogan's visit to Istanbul's Adnan Menderes mausoleum took him back to the man he cited when he called early polls for May 14 in a bid to ease his way to an unprecedented third decade of rule.

Menderes was tried and hanged one year after the military staged a coup in 1960 to put Turkey back on a more secular course.

'Era of coups is over'

Mr. Erdogan survived a putsch attempt against his own Islamic-rooted government in 2016.

"The era of coups and juntas is over," the 69-year-old said. "I once again call on you to go to the ballot boxes. Tomorrow is a special day for us all."

He paid a similarly symbolic visit to Istanbul's iconic Hagia Sophia mosque on the eve of the first round.

Mr. Erdogan ended up beating secular opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu by nearly five percentage points two weeks ago. But his failure to top the 50% threshold set up Turkey's first run-off on Sunday.

Mr. Kilicdaroglu has focused on more immediate issues as he tries to come from behind and return power to the secular party that ruled Turkey for most of the 20th century.

Sudanese Army chief asks UN to dismiss envoy

Agence France-Presse
KHARTOUM

Sudanese Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has accused UN special envoy Volker Perthes of stoking a brutal conflict with paramilitaries, the latest in a series of apparent moves to bolster his war effort.

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres said he was "shocked" by Gen. Burhan's letter, which requested "the nomination of a replacement" to Mr. Perthes and accused him of committing "fraud and disinformation" in facilitating a political process which broke down into six weeks of urban warfare.

Since late last year Mr. Perthes and the UN mission in Sudan have been the target of several protests by military and Islamist supporters who accused Mr. Perthes of "foreign intervention" and demanded his dismissal.

Race for U.S. debt deal as talks go to the wire

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Democrats and Republicans seemed within grasping distance on Saturday of a deal to end the U.S. debt ceiling standoff, with both sides playing hardball in the final race for an agreement to avert a potentially catastrophic default.

President Joe Biden gave the strongest sign yet on Friday night that the drama in Washington might be drawing to an end – saying an agreement was "very close."

But midnight came and went, as Democrats reportedly drew a red line at Republican demands for tougher work requirements in exchange for social aid that they say would kill party support for a deal.

Ticking clock: House Speaker Kevin McCarthy arrives at the U.S. Capitol on Friday for negotiations on the debt ceiling. REUTERS

"I'm Catholic. Everybody wants to look for the white smoke. We're not at that stage yet," Republican negotiator Patrick McHenry said on late Friday night.

As talks resumed on Capitol Hill in the morning, congressional reporters quoted Mr. McHenry as saying the sticking points were down to a "very short list" and that a deal could be "hours or days".

Short of an accord allowing it to keep borrowing, the U.S. government says it will run out of money to pay its bills on June 5. The dreaded X-date is four days later than a previous estimate, but still guarantees that – even with a deal this weekend – it will be a frantic race to get it through the legislative hoops in Congress in less than 10 days.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : WRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/7902/2022_5_3_2/1, Jal Jeevan Mission - CWSS to 13 Panchayaths based on Malankara Reservoir - Kadanadu Panchayath - (1) Design and construction of 0.7 LL BP tank & 6LL GLSR, 2.5 LL Boosting pump house, 2LL GLSR 2LL OHSR WTP compound, (2) Supplying & Laying of 450mm, 350mm, 200mm, 150mm DI K9 Conveyance Mains, (3) Providing Distribution network and FHTCs in the Kadanadu Panchayath (4) Restoration of roads etc. **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 16540 +(₹2978) GST, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 12-06-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 0481 2562745, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Kottayam

KWA-JB-GL-6-368-2023-24

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
PWD CIRCLE, PRATAPGARH
Email: sepratap@gmail.com Tel. No. 01478-294178
No. 92 Date 16/05/2023

Corrigendum Notice Inviting Bid No. 07/2022-23
NIB code PWD2223A4982

Bids for 6 works of road works are invited from interested bidders upto 6:00PM of 29/05/2023 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the Rajasthan state; and departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1604.00 lakhs.

UBN No.
PWD2223WSOB20289, PWD2223WSOB20290, PWD2223WSOB20291, PWD2223WSOB20292, PWD2223WSOB20293, PWD2223WSOB20294

Superintending Engineer,
PWD Circle, Pratapgarh

DIPR/C/7379

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)
~ Accredited by NAAC~ ~ ISO 9001:2015~
(Dept. Of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan),
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt.of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112 Tamil Nadu – India.
Phone: 044 – 27472046, 27472113, 27472423 Email: niepmd@gmail.com

Employment Notice No. 02 (R) /2023

NIEPMD invites applications from Indian Nationals, who fulfil the prescribed qualification, experience, age and other conditions for filling up the following sanctioned regular posts.

1. Deputy Registrar (Admin) – 01
2. Lecturer in Clinical Psychology (Reserved for SC with PwBD) - 01

For detailed advertisement, essential/desirable qualifications, age limit, format of application and the recruitment fee details etc., please visit our website: www.niepmd.tn.nic.in. The last date of receipt of applications with fee and necessary documents is 30 days from the date of publication in employment news.

Sd/-
Director

National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management-Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T)
(An Institute of National Importance; formerly Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology-IIFPT), Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India
Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005, Website: www.niftem-t.ac.in

Walk-in-Interview

No. NIFTEM-T /Admin/Projects/ 2023 Date : 28.05.2023

A Walk-in-Interview for the recruitment of candidates for the following contractual posts of this Institute will be held on 19.06.2023 at 9.30 a.m. as mentioned below.

S.No	Position	No. of Vacancies	Interview Location
1.	Senior Research Fellow	04	NIFTEM-Thanjavur Tamil Nadu
2.	Project Assistant	01	
3.	Senior Research Fellow	01	NIFTEM -T Liaison Office - Guwahati, Assam

For detailed information, visit at www.niftem-t.ac.in

REGISTRAR

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)
(Accredited by NAAC) (ISO 9001 ; 2015)
(Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan),
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112
Phone: 044 –, 27472113, 27472423 Mobile: 9444314716 Toll Free No: 18004250345
Kiran Mental Health Helpline No: 1800-599-0019
www.niepmd.tn.nic.in Email: niepmd@gmail.com, asponiepmd@gmail.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR OPENING OF PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AUSHADHI KENDRA

NIEPMD invites EOI in two bid system (Technical and Financial) through NIC e-procurement portal URL http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app from interested registered Pharmacists to open "Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK") inside NIEPMD Campus. The tender document can also be downloaded from our website **www.niepmd.tn.nic.in.**

Last date for E-bidding	15.06.2023 (03.00 PM)
Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)	NIL
EMD Amount	RS. 10,000/-
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	16.06.2023 (04.00 PM)

Sd/-
Director

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
(A Central University), HYDERABAD - 500 007

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION FOR NON-TEACHING STAFF RECRUITMENT No. III/2023

The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad invites applications from the eligible candidates for appointment to various vacant Non-Teaching positions (**Group -A**: UR- 12, OBC -2; **Group - B**: UR -17, SC -01, OBC -02, PwBD -01 (B, LV); **Group - C**: UR -46,SC -11, ST -04, OBC -24, EWS -07, PwBD - 05 [01- B,LV; 01- D, HH; 01 (OA, BA, OL, OAL, BL, LC, Dw, AAV; 01 (MI); 01 (MD) through Direct Recruitment at the University Campus, Hyderabad and its Regional Campus, Shillong.

The application can be downloaded from the University website **www.efluniversity.ac.in**

The details of the Notification, Eligibility criteria and Guidelines for filling the Application form are placed on the University website for information.

The last date for receiving applications is **26.06.2023**.

Sd/-
Date: **27.05.2023** REGISTRAR I/c

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER

TENDER NOTICE

Adv. No. 15/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & 32 to 33 / SE-III/TTD/2023-24, Dt: 26.05.2023
Name of work: (1) Improvements to Pushkarini at Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple, Tiruchanoor, amount 900.00 lakhs & Time for Completion : 6Months (2) Proposed construction of Sri padmavathi & Sri Andal Sametha Sri Venkateswara swamy temple at Karimnagar, Telangana State, Amount 1485.00 lakhs & Time for completion 18 months
Adv. No. 16/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & 60 to 61 / SE-II/TTD/2023-24, Dt: 26.05.2023
Name of work: (1) Construction RCC Crash Barriers along the 2nd ghat road for the balance portion. Amount 1200 Lakhs. Time for Completion 12 Months. (2) Construction RCC Crash Barriers along the 1st Ghat road, for the balance portion, Amount 1200 Lakhs, Time for completion 12 months.
Note: For full details log on to the website https://www.tirumala.org.

ROC No. PR4/13954/Adv. No.68/ PRO/2023, Dated: 27.05.2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)
(Accredited by NAAC) (ISO 9001 ; 2015)
(Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan),
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Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112
Phone: 044 –, 27472113, 27472423 Mobile: 9444314716 Toll Free No: 18004250345
Kiran Mental Health Helpline No: 1800-599-0019
www.niepmd.tn.nic.in Email: niepmd@gmail.com, asponiepmd@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER: FOR POST CONSTRUCTION ANTI-TERMITE TREATMENT ON EXISTING MAIN BUILDING AT NIEPMD CAMPUS, MUTTUKADU

NIEPMD invites e-tender in two bid system (Technical and Financial) through NIC e-procurement portal URL http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app for the above mentioned work from the eligible with CPWD/PWD/MES or any State or Central Govt. Undertaking Organization. The E-tender document may be downloaded from website **https://eprocure.gov.in/** and from website **www.niepmd.tn.nic.in** and submitted through online mode only. E-Tender must be submitted through **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

Last date for submission of E-bidding	14.06.2023 (04.00 PM)
EMD Amount	RS. 50,000/-
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	15.06.2023 (04.30 PM)

Sd/- Director

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजानिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत कोटा
संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या-23/2022-23

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 3234 दिनांक 29.03.2023 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या 23/2022-23 में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1	ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 06.04.2023 से 08.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक	ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 06.04.2023 से 29.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक
2	ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख 06.04.2023 से 08.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक	ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख 06.04.2023 से 29.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक
3	ऑनलाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख 09.05.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक	ऑनलाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख 31.05.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक
4	शर्त संख्या 05 में वर्णित निविदादाता द्वारा निविदा शुल्क बिड सिक्योरिटी (बोली प्रतिभूति) राजस्थान सरकार वित्त (जीएण्डटी) विभाग परिपत्र क्रमांक प. 6(5) वित्त/ साविलेनि/2018 जयपुर, दिनांक 27.04.2020 के बिन्दु 1 व 2 निर्माण विभागों की निविदाओं हेतु RISL Fees बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-[02, (निर्माण विभाग) एवं बोली दस्तावेज मूल्य (Tender Fees) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 अन्य मद में ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 08.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे से पूर्व जमा करवाई जानी है।	निविदादाता द्वारा निविदा शुल्क बिड सिक्योरिटी (बोली प्रतिभूति) राजस्थान सरकार वित्त (जीएण्डटी) विभाग परिपत्र क्रमांक प.6 (5)वित्त/साविलेनि/2018 जयपुर, दिनांक 27.4.2020 के बिन्दु 1 व 2 निर्माण विभागों की निविदाओं हेतु RISL Fees बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-[02, (निर्माण विभाग) एवं बोली दस्तावेज मूल्य (Tender Fees) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 अन्य मद में ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 29.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे से पूर्व जमा करवाई जानी है।

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

JBN No.:
PWD2223WL0B20426, PWD2223WL0B20427, PWD2223WL0B20428, PWD2223WL0B20429, PWD2223WL0B20430, PWD2223WL0B20431, PWD2223WL0B20432, PWD2223WL0B20433, PWD2223WL0B20434, PWD2223WL0B20435 & PWD2223WL0B20436

डीआईपीआर/सी/7371/2023 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत्त कोटा

Cheetahs introduced without considering spatial ecology: study

R. Prasad

Almost 70 years after Asiatic cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) went extinct in India, eight cheetahs from Namibia and 12 from South Africa were introduced into the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh in September 2022 and February 2023, respectively. The intent was to establish a free-ranging population of cheetahs belonging to the sub-species, *Acinonyx jubatus*.

Now, three scientists from the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin, Germany, have pointed out serious shortcomings in the reintroduction plan. The cheetahs have been introduced in an unfenced area of about 750 sq km in the Kuno National Park. This area is surrounded by villages with livestock farmers.

Using only the prey density in the national park, the carrying capacity for cheetahs was calculated to be 21, which translates into three cheetahs per 100 sq km.

Writing in the journal, *Conservation Science and Practice*, the researchers point out that such "high cheetah densities have not been recorded for other free-ranging African cheetah population roaming in unfenced areas".

Instead, just one cheetah is present per 100 sq km of unfenced area. Even in prey-rich landscapes such as the Maasai Mara in Kenya, the cheetah density is just about one per 100 sq km.

Spatial tactics

According to the researchers, the socio-spatial organisation of cheetahs is such that adult cheetah males will have two distinct spatial tactics – either territory holders or floaters. And the territories will be distributed in the landscape with a separation distance of 20-23 km.

The large areas between the territories will not be defended by any males, but instead will be used by females and floaters.

Of the eight cheetahs brought from Namibia, three are males, and these three cheetahs will establish a separate territory for themselves and each territory will be separated by 20-23 km. The researchers predict that irrespective of the territory size, the three males will occupy the entire national park, leaving no space for additional territories for males introduced from South Africa.

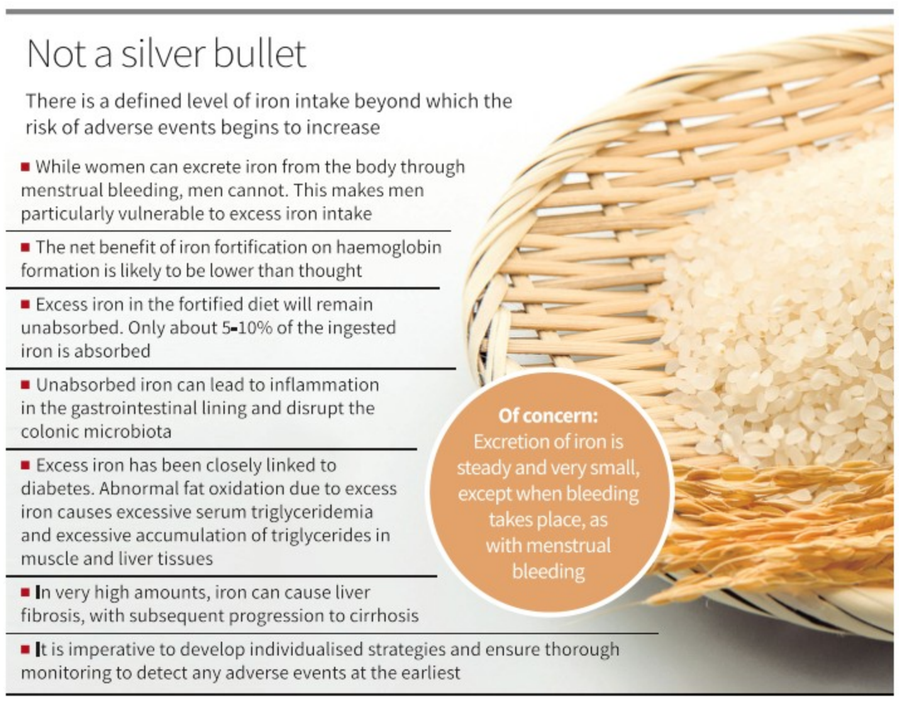
Of the 12 cheetahs brought from South Africa, seven are males. This will mean that the male cheetahs will be forced to settle outside the Kuno National Park.

"We predict that additional males brought in or born in the Kuno National Park will settle at a distance of about 20-23 km away from the established territories," they write.

Iron fortification: health risks of excessive iron intake

The net effect of iron provision through fortification on haemoglobin formation is likely to be lower than thought

Anura Kurpad
Jananee Muralidharan


Not a silver bullet
There is a defined level of iron intake beyond which the risk of adverse events begins to increase
While women can excrete iron from the body through menstrual bleeding, men cannot. This makes men particularly vulnerable to excess iron intake
The net benefit of iron fortification on haemoglobin formation is likely to be lower than thought
Excess iron in the fortified diet will remain unabsorbed. Only about 5-10% of the ingested iron is absorbed
Unabsorbed iron can lead to inflammation in the gastrointestinal lining and disrupt the colonic microbiota
Excess iron has been closely linked to diabetes. Abnormal fat oxidation due to excess iron causes excessive serum triglyceridemia and excessive accumulation of triglycerides in muscle and liver tissues
In very high amounts, iron can cause liver fibrosis, with subsequent progression to cirrhosis
It is imperative to develop individualised strategies and ensure thorough monitoring to detect any adverse events at the earliest
Of concern: Excretion of iron is steady and very small, except when bleeding takes place, as with menstrual bleeding

Iron is an essential mineral required for many bodily functions, including the formation of haemoglobin, but can be harmful when taken in excess. One of the methods suggested for the treatment of iron deficiency anaemia is fortification of food with iron.

Typically, a chosen food staple such as wheat, rice, or even salt, is fortified to provide up to two-thirds (10 mg/day) of the iron requirement of adult women, and almost the entire daily requirement of men. Thus, excess consumption of iron can occur if one habitually consumes a balanced quality diet to begin with or exceeds limits for consumption of the fortified food.

Tolerable upper limit

There is a defined level of iron intake beyond which the risk of adverse events begins to increase. This is called the 'tolerable upper limit' of intake, and is set at 40 mg/day.

It will especially be deleterious for populations who have iron overload states like patients with thalassemia.

Once iron is absorbed, it is thought that its excretion is steady and very small, except when bleeding takes place, as with menstrual bleeding. Thus, women can excrete iron from the body but men cannot. This makes men vulnerable to excess iron intake.

Recent studies showed that with fortification, there is an increased excretion of iron in children. It is not known exactly how or through what route this extra excretion takes place. It is likely that the extra iron is lost through the intestine, where cells of the intestinal lining exfoliate or drop off, and thereby deposit their iron into the intestine lumen for excretion, or through the urine.

Nevertheless, beyond the excess stores, the net effect of iron provision through fortification on haemoglobin formation is likely to be lower than thought.

To the extent that the body can, it will try to regulate iron absorption. But excess iron in the fortified diet can remain unabsorbed.

Typically, it is expected that just 5-10% of the ingested iron is absorbed. The rest is excreted.

Harmful effects

Studies have shown that unabsorbed iron can lead to inflammation in the gastrointestinal lining and disrupt the colonic microbiota with long term consequences. The irritation of the lining may present itself clinically as abdominal cramps, constipation, or diarrhoea. In addition, the irritation of mucosa can also lead to gastrointestinal blood loss. An excess of iron in the gastrointestinal tract can impair absorption of other minerals.

A more pressing worry is that excess iron has been closely linked to diabetes. Iron can cause oxidative stress in the body which can damage cells, protein, and DNA with long term consequences. This chronic oxidative stress leads to the impairment of mitochondrial beta-oxidation of long chain fatty acids. This abnormal fat oxidation leads to excessive serum triglyceridemia and excessive accumulation of triglycerides in muscle and liver tissues.

An analysis of data on blood biomarkers of chronic disease risk from the Comprehensive National Nutritional Survey in Indian adolescent children showed that for every 10mcg/L increase in serum ferritin (the storage state of iron), the risk of having high fasting serum glucose, total cholesterol, triglycerides and hypertension increased proportionately. A scenario analysis of these data showed that if an additional 10mg of iron/day were provided (by fortification), the prevalence of high fasting serum glucose could increase by 2-14% across different socio-economic groups.

In very high amounts, iron also has a role to play in the hepatic stellate cell activation and excessive deposition of extracellular matrix in the liver. This can lead to liver fibrosis, with subsequent progression to cirrhosis.

Individual approach

Even though iron fortification has been successful in addressing iron deficiency, it is important to consider the dangers of consuming too much iron. Rather than adopting mandatory iron fortification programmes where unsupervised high iron intakes are instituted across a diverse population, it is imperative to develop individualised strategies and ensure thorough monitoring to detect any adverse events at the earliest.

There is no doubt that some segments of the population need the extra dietary iron but not all. Eventually, precision in public health is essential if we are to avoid the risk of iron overload and the potential for long-term chronic illnesses. As a public health strategy, the pendulum should not swing all the way to the other side.

(Anura Kurpad is Professor of Physiology and Jananee Muralidharan is Assistant Professor of Medicine at St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru. Views expressed are personal.)

The South Indian filter coffee

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

The Statista site states that India is the sixth largest producer of coffee in the world, after Brazil, Vietnam, Colombia, Indonesia, Ethiopia and Honduras. India produced about 4,00,000 tonnes of coffee in 2022-23.

Dr. K.T. Achaya, in his book, *Indian Food,* writes that coffee reached India from the Middle East in the 14th-15th century, named 'cohha', which later became coffee. Blogs tell us that the colonial British commercialised Indian coffee from Mysore to Europe.

Health benefits

I had written in my earlier article dated December 8, 2019 that coffee is a health drink. Meta-analysis suggests that coffee contains several vitamins and antioxidants. It is, thus, a health drink that protects our stomach cells from oxidative damage, and reduces the risk of type 2 diabetes, and several age-related diseases. But one should not overdo it: no more than five cups of coffee a day.

The South Indian coffee is an admixture of coffee and chicory powders. It is this addition of chicory that makes South Indian coffee special.

What is chicory? It is a herb native to Europe and Asia. Its root contains inulin, a starchy substance, which is good for health, and is found in a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, and herbs, including wheat, onions, bananas, leeks, artichokes, and asparagus.

Chicory root has a mild laxative effect and decreases swelling.

Chicory is also a rich source of beta-carotene, which protects cells from oxidative damage, better than coffee. Also, chicory does not contain caffeine which induces restlessness and insomnia, which coffee does. This is why it is a good practice for the South Indian coffee to have an admixture of coffee and chicory powders: the ratio being 70:30, or as per personal taste.

Benefits: Coffee can effectively protect the stomach cells from oxidative damage. GETTY IMAGES

Where are all the coffee plantations across India? The plantations are mostly in the hilly regions of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, as well as in the hilly regions of Andhra Pradesh (Araku Valley), Odisha, and in the hills of Manipur, Mizoram, and the other 'seven sisters' of Northeast India. Chicory is grown mainly in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

Interestingly, most people in these two States drink tea and not coffee. Happily enough, tea also has less caffeine per cup.

Coffee with milk

In many parts of the world, people drink plain coffee, with no milk in it. The Italians have a variety of coffee brewing styles. The espresso, where high-temperature water is forced through ground coffee beans at a pressure of 10 bars, is one popular example. South Indian filter coffee is usually served with hot milk added to it. Indeed, adding milk to coffee enhances the taste and flavour.

Coffee is a health drink that reduces the risk of type 2 diabetes and several age-related diseases

In fact, a paper from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, in the January 2023 issue of the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* points out that coffee with milk may have an anti-inflammatory effect. The combination of proteins and antioxidants in milk helps in action of immunity-producing cells.

The researchers have initiated a large-scale human trial aimed at studying the health effects of milk-added coffee. Many Indian coffee lovers will be happy to be enrolled in this trial.

SNAPSHOTS

As Arctic warms, female arctic squirrels end hibernation

As Alaskan permafrost warms, hibernating arctic ground squirrels generate less heat, causing females to emerge from hibernation up to ten days before their male counterparts – a mismatch that could have large, cascading ecological impacts. The findings (*Science*) reveal both direct and indirect impacts of a warming world. In the Arctic, where warming is occurring more rapidly than other places on earth, rising winter temperatures are altering the phenology, or timing, of key seasonal animal behaviours.

Soil microbiota bolster tree resilience to changing climate

Soil microbiota transplanted from more stressful environmental conditions can enhance tree tolerance to changing climates, a new study (*Science*) reports. Management of soil microbiota, especially during forest restorations, could be a valuable strategy for increasing forest resilience to climate change. For trees, neither adaptation nor migration may happen fast enough to keep up the pace of climate change. But diverse assemblages of microbes that live on plants can enhance plant tolerance to environmental stress.

Restoring natural control of movement after paralysis

An implant that restores communication between brain and spinal cord can help a patient with paralysis of the arms and legs to stand and walk naturally. The device improved neurological recovery, and the patient was able to walk with crutches when the implant was switched off (*Nature*). The brain-spine interface enables a natural control over the movements of the legs to stand and walk. This gives hope of restoring natural control of movement after paralysis.

Question Corner

Mount Everest

Do microbes left behind by humans on Mount Everest survive?

A new study has found that humans are leaving behind a frozen legacy of hardy microbes on Mount Everest, which can withstand harsh conditions and lie dormant in the soil for decades or even centuries.

The researchers found the presence of certain microbes that have evolved to thrive in warm and wet environments like our noses and mouths which have now become resilient enough to survive in a dormant state in such harsh conditions.

Most of the microbial DNA sequences found were similar to hardy, or extremophilic organisms previously detected in other high-elevation sites in the Andes and Antarctica.

The most abundant organism they found was a fungus in the genus *Naganishia* that can withstand extreme levels of cold and UV radiation.

But even pathogens heavily associated with humans, including Staphylococcus, one of the most common skin and nose bacteria, and Streptococcus, a dominant genus in the human mouth, were found.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Why are cheetah cubs dying in Kuno reserve?

What are the difficulties at the national park? Should some of the animals have been sent to other reserves?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

This week, three of the four cheetah cubs that were born at the Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, died from natural causes. In response, the government has constituted a new committee of experts that will monitor Project Cheetah.

Why was Project Cheetah launched?

India's cheetah relocation programme is perhaps among the most ambitious of its kind in the world. The attempt is to, over the next decade, bring in five to 10 animals every year until a self-sustaining population of about 35 is established. Unlike cheetahs in South Africa and Namibia, which live in fenced reserves, India's plan is to have them grow in natural, unfenced, wild conditions. At Kuno, only six of the 17 adults are in the wild with the rest lodged in large, specially designed enclosures to help the animals acclimatise to Indian conditions. The plan is to release all the animals into the open by the year-end. The animals are radio-collared and tracked 24/7. But "interventions," said Dr. Qamar Qureshi, who is part of the expert committee and a prominent big-cat expert, "are to be exceedingly rare and only in the case of emergencies".

How did the cheetah cubs die?

On May 23, forest officials tracking the cheetahs observed that one of the cubs, barely two months old, seemed disoriented and was unable to trail its mother, Jwala, as part of their regular jaunts. A closer inspection revealed that the cub was unable to lift itself and, despite an examination by veterinarians, soon died. The remaining three, though mobile, did not appear healthy and this prompted the vets to take the animals in for a closer inspection. Two of the cubs were subsequently discovered to be exceedingly frail and malnourished and, by the evening of the same day, they too had died. While a post-mortem was conducted, the cause of death has been attributed to "extreme heat, weakness and malnutrition". All the cubs were underweight. One of the cubs is reportedly well and though weak, is recovering rapidly. The authorities plan on raising the cub for a month and attempt reuniting it with its mother.

> Experts say 'inexperience' on the mother's part in tending to her cubs may have played a part in their untimely deaths

Are these deaths unusual?

The death of three of four cubs – the first litter born in India – comes on the heels of the death of three adult cheetahs. Earlier this month, an adult female, Daksha, died following injuries involving a skirmish among the animals. Two other animals, Sasha and Uday, died in March and April from renal infection and cardiovascular problems, respectively. Experts say that cheetah cubs in the wild have a very high mortality rate compared to tigers and lions. Cheetah cubs have a survival rate of only 10% and roughly the same fraction makes it to adulthood, a press release from the Environment Ministry noted on Wednesday. A classic study of the causes of cheetah mortality by Karen Laurenson of the University of Cambridge, in 1994, attributed 66% of deaths to predation, and about 16% to "abandonment by the mother". But given that these animals were in protected enclosures, such conjecture does not yet apply to the Indian cheetah. Experts have also said that this was the first litter born to the Namibian cheetah, which itself was not truly wild and was 'hand-bred' and, therefore, 'inexperience' on the mother's part in tending to her cub may have played a part.

How successful has Project Cheetah been so far?

In September 2023, it will be one year since a batch of eight cheetahs from Namibia arrived in India. They were followed by 12 others from South Africa in February 2023. The official Cheetah Action Plan, the guiding document behind the project, observes that even half the cheetahs surviving the first year would be "an indicator of success". Independent critics have, however, argued that there are some basic flaws in the project. For one, it is a mistake to have had all 20 cheetahs at Kuno as there is too little space and prey, given that the animal is a courser and needs larger fields of play. Some animals should have gone to the Mukundara reserve in Rajasthan. Forest officials in Madhya Pradesh have also admitted that they are stretched. However, the officials in the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the nodal agency of the Environment Ministry tasked with coordinating the project, say that Kuno is capable of hosting the first lot of animals and future batches will be sent to other reserves. The experience of raising cheetahs in fenced reserves in Africa can't be replicated in India, say experts, because India's cultural values promote coexistence with beasts, and that underpinned the success of tiger, lion and leopard conservation programmes.

How can citizens file Census details online?

What are the norms being laid down? Why has the National Population Register been made compulsory for those who want to fill the form digitally? What is the timeframe for the exercise? Are the Census and NPR mandatory exercises?

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:

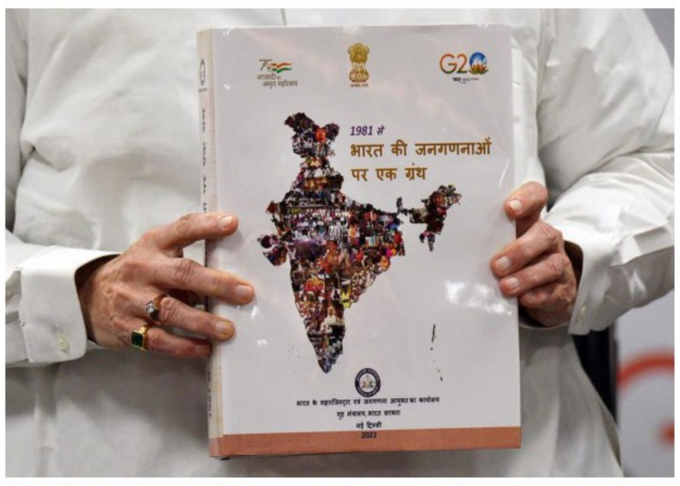
India had conducted the Census every 10 years since 1881, but in 2020, the decennial exercise for Census 2021 had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Though the government has not announced fresh dates for the Census, the groundwork is being laid and details are emerging about some of the features. It will be the first digital Census giving citizens an opportunity to "self-enumerate". The NPR (National Population Register) has been made compulsory for citizens who want to exercise the right to fill the Census form on their own rather than through government enumerators. During self-enumeration, Aadhaar or mobile number will be mandatorily collected.

What is the status of the Census exercise?

A January 2 notification extending the deadline for the freezing of administrative boundaries in States till June 30 has ruled out the exercise at least till September. As preparation and training takes at least three months, the Census will have to be pushed to next year. Around 30 lakh government officials will be assigned as enumerators and each will have the task to collect the details of 650-800 people through both online and offline mode, covering an estimated population of 135 crore people. The Lok Sabha election is due in April-May 2024 and it is unlikely that the Census will be carried out before that since the same workforce will be dedicated to the elections.

The completion of both the phases of the Census will take at least 11 months, even if done at an accelerated pace from October 1.

> The NPR was first collected in 2010 when the Congress government was in power at the Centre



Countdown: The Union Home Minister, Amit Shah released a book on the Indian Census in New Delhi on May 22. PTI

What is holding up the Census?

One reason which is holding up the exercise is the amendments proposed to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. The government wants to have a centralised register of births and deaths that can be used to update the population register, electoral register, Aadhaar, ration card, passport and driving licence databases. The centrally stored data will be updated in real time without human interface leading to addition and deletion from electoral rolls when an individual turns 18 and after an individual's death respectively. A Bill to link the births and deaths register with the population register and others is expected to be tabled in the next session of Parliament, Home Minister Amit Shah has said.

What about self-enumeration and NPR?

On May 22, Mr. Shah inaugurated the new Janganana Bhavan (Census building) in New Delhi, and released a report, 'The Treatise on Indian Censuses Since 1981' containing details about the questions to be asked in the forthcoming Census and other aspects. The report said that "self-enumeration for Census will be provided to only those households that have updated the NPR [National Population Register] online".

The NPR, unlike the Census, is a comprehensive identity database of every "usual resident" in the country and the data proposed to be collected at the family level can be shared with States and other government departments. Though Census also collects similar information, the Census Act of 1948 bars sharing any individual's data with the State or Centre and only aggregate data at the administrative level can be released. According to Citizenship Rules 2003 under the Citizenship Act, 1955, NPR is the first step towards a compilation of the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC/NRC). Assam is the only State where an NRC has been compiled based on the directions of the Supreme Court, with the final draft of Assam's NRC excluding 19 lakh of the 3.29 crore applicants. In 2020, the NPR was opposed by several State governments such as West Bengal, Kerala, Rajasthan, Odisha, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab and Chhattisgarh and civil society organisations due to its link with the proposed NRC as it might leave many people stateless for want of legacy documents.

There are apprehensions that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 that allows citizenship on the basis of religion to six undocumented religious communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before December 31, 2014 will benefit non-Muslims excluded from the proposed citizens' register, while excluded Muslims will have to prove their citizenship. The government has denied that the CAA and NRC are linked and that there are currently any plans to compile a countrywide NRC.

What is the current status of NPR?

The NPR was first collected in 2010 when the Congress government was in power at the Centre. It was updated in 2015 and already has details of 119 crore residents.

In March 2020, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) amended the Census Rules framed in 1990 to capture and store the Census data in an electronic form and enabled self-enumeration by respondents. The NPR is scheduled to be updated with the first phase of Census 2021. For this phase (houselisting and household phase), 31 questions have been notified, while for the population enumeration – the second and main phase – 28 questions have been finalised but are yet to be notified.

Though the government has claimed that the NPR form has not been finalised yet, the sample form is part of the Census of India 2021 Handbook for Principal/District Census Officers and Charge Officers in 2021. According to the Handbook, that was pulled down from the Census website after a report published in *The Hindu* in 2021, the NPR has retained contentious questions such as "mother tongue, place of birth of father and mother and last place of residence", possible indicators to determine inclusion in the citizenship register. The questions were opposed by the State governments of West Bengal, Kerala, Rajasthan and Odisha in 2020.

What about the expenditure?

The report released by Mr. Shah says the initial draft prepared by the office of the Registrar General of India and circulated to key Ministries and the Prime Minister's Office only called for the conduct of Census 2021 at a cost of ₹9,275 crore, and not the NPR. The draft Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) note was then revised and a financial provision of ₹4,442.15 crore for updating the NPR was added on the directions of the MHA "subsequently", it says. The proposal was cleared on August 16, 2019 and it received the Union Cabinet's nod on December 24, 2019. It was decided that the enumerator engaged for Census would also collect details for NPR. The COVID-19 pandemic struck in March 2020 and since then both the exercises are on hold. Now, the NPR has been made compulsory if citizens want to exercise the right to fill the Census form on their own. The deleted Handbook said that it is "mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR." Census is also a mandatory exercise and giving false information is a punishable offence.

Will AI tools help detect telecom fraud?

How does the ASTR tool locate fake SIM cards? What are the concerns regarding using AI-based facial recognition? Does India have a law governing such technology? What are some of the ethical problems with FRT?

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:

To weed out rampant cases of fraudulently procured SIM cards being used across the country for financial and other cyber scams, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has begun using an artificial intelligence-based facial recognition tool named 'Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification' or ASTR. ASTR has already been used in multiple States such as Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.

Why is AI used to detect telecom frauds?

On May 25, the Punjab police said it had blocked 1.8 lakh SIM cards allegedly activated using fake identities, out of which 500 connections were obtained using one person's photo but different accompanying KYC (Know Your Customer) parameters such as names, address proofs, and so on. India is the second-largest telecom ecosystem in the world, with about 117 crore subscribers. While manually identifying and comparing the vast number of subscriber verification documents such as photographs and proofs is a massive exercise, the DoT says it aims to use the facial recognition-based "indigenous and NextGen platform" ASTR to analyse the whole subscriber base of all telecom service providers (TSPs). Besides, it points out, that the currently available conventional text-based analysis is limited to finding similarities between the proof of identities and verifying whether such information is accurate but it cannot trawl photographic data to detect similar faces.

> India neither has a data protection policy in place nor a specific facial recognition technology regulation

ISTOCKPHOTO

What is ASTR?

Facial recognition is an algorithm-based technology which creates a digital map of the face by identifying and mapping an individual's facial features, which it then matches against the database to which it has access.

In 2012, the DoT had directed all TSPs to share their subscriber database including pictures of users with the department. The ASTR analyses this database provided by TSPs and put them into groups of similar-looking images using facial recognition technology (FRT). In the next step, it compares the associated textual subscriber details with pictures in the database and uses a string-matching concept called "fuzzy logic" to identify approximately similar-looking names of users or other KYC information to group them. The last step is determining if the same face (person) has acquired SIMs in multiple names, dates of birth, bank accounts, address proofs, and other KYC documents. Alternatively, ASTR also identifies if more than eight SIM connections have been obtained in one person's name, which is not allowed as per DoT rules. ASTR's facial recognition technology detects facial features by mapping 68 features of the frontal face. It characterises two faces as similar if there's a 97.5% match.

What are the concerns associated with the use of facial recognition AI?

The use of FRT involves issues related to misidentification due to the inaccuracy of the technology. An algorithmic FRT, which is trained on specific datasets may have limits to its knowledge, that is, it might make technical errors due to occlusion (a partial or complete obstruction of the image), bad lighting, facial expression, ageing and so on. Errors in FRT also relate to the underrepresentation of certain groups of people in the training datasets. Studies on FRT systems in India indicate a disparity in error rates based on the identification of Indian men and Indian women. Extensive research globally has revealed that its accuracy rates fall starkly based on race, gender, skin colour and so on. This, in turn, can result in a false positive, where a person is misidentified as someone else or a false negative, where a person is not verified as themselves.

Other concerns about FRT, relate to privacy, consent, and mass surveillance. The Supreme Court in the *Puttaswamy* case had recognised the right to informational autonomy as an important part of the right to privacy enshrined in Article 21. FRT systems consume and compute vast amounts of biometric facial data, to both train and operate. In many cases, an individual may not be in control of the processing of their data or not even be aware.

In the case of ASTR, digital policy-watcher and news organisation Medianama pointed out in its findings that there was no public notification issued about the use of ASTR on user data provided to TSPs at the time of obtaining connections. An RTI filed by the publication with the DoT did not reveal any information about how ASTR safeguards data or for how long it retains customer data. This raises questions about privacy and consent even if ASTR is being used on the principle of deemed consent mentioned in the now-withdrawn data protection bill.

What is the legal framework for such tech?

In several jurisdictions world-over which are using FRT in their governance and privately, players have to adhere to the local personal data protection regimes if AI regulation is not in place. In India, there is no data protection law in place after the government withdrew the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 last year following extensive changes recommended by a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Secondly, India also does not have an FRT-specific regulation.

However, NITI Aayog has published papers enunciating India's national strategy towards harnessing the potential of AI reasonably. It says that the use should be with due consent and should be voluntary and at no time should FRT become mandatory. It should be limited to instances where both public interest and constitutional morality can be in sync.

Turkey's republican monarch

Recep Tayyip Erdogan

The AKP leader, who started his political career as an outsider in a country dominated by the Kemalist establishment, has now emerged as the guardian of a parallel Islamist order with Ottoman nostalgia

Stanly Johny

On February 28, 1997, Turkey's powerful military gave an ultimatum to Necmettin Erbakan, the Prime Minister and leader of the Islamist Welfare Party, to "restore the secular character" of the state. Erbakan, who came to power through a coalition the previous year, upset the country's secular establishment with his Islamist policies. The military, which saw itself as the guardian of the secular order established by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the Turkish republic, was alarmed by Erbakan's open Islamism. Erbakan was forced to resign in June 1997 and his Welfare Party was outlawed, in what was called "a postmodern coup"– no bullets were fired, no soldiers came out of the barracks, but still the regime fell.

Many of Erbakan's followers watched helplessly as the military started systematically undoing everything they built. One of them was Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the 43-year-old Mayor of Istanbul. Later in the year, while attending a public rally in Siirt in the southeast, Mr. Erdogan, read out a poem written by Ziya Gokalp in 1912.

"The mosques are our barracks
The domes our helmets
The minarets our bayonets
And the faithful our soldiers
Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar."

The establishment struck back. Mr. Erdogan was charged with "incitement of religious hatred", sentenced to 10 months in jail (of which he served four) and banned from standing in elections. While going to the Pınarhisar prison in Kırklareli, he told a sea of supporters who gathered to bid him farewell, "This song won't finish here." It didn't. Twenty four years later, Mr. Erdogan, who has been in power for the past 20 years, is facing an electoral run-off on Sunday. If he wins, that would extend his uninterrupted hold over Turkey for five more years.

Rise to power

Born on February 26, 1954 in a pious Muslim family, Tayyip Erdogan grew up in Rize, a Black Sea town. Later, his father, a seaman, migrated to Istanbul, where Mr. Erdogan spent his youth, did his religious schooling, played football and laid the foundations of his world view. In the 1970s, he joined the National Turkish Students Union, an anti-communist outfit. Later, he joined the Islamist National Salvation Party. When Erbakan, whom Mr. Erdogan found as an inspiration, founded the Welfare Party, he became one of the party's district chairs. It was on the Welfare Party's ticket, Mr. Erdogan was elected as the Mayor of Istanbul in 1994. After the Welfare Party was banned, the Islamists formed the Virtue Party. When the Virtue Party was also shut down, they formed the Felicity Party.

For Mr. Erdogan and his allies, the political developments of the late 1990s was both a catalyst and an eye-opener. The coup of 1997, his own imprisonment and the subsequent banning of the Islamist parties all convinced Mr. Erdogan that they should play the long game. At this point, those who called themselves "reformers" in the Islamist political camp, including Mr. Erdogan and Abdullah Gul, broke away with Erbakan and formed the Justice and Development Party (AKP in Turkish initials). They were conservative, but did not openly challenge the secular consensus. Instead, Mr. Erdogan and Mr. Gul focused on resolving Turkey's economic problems. The AKP promised a new beginning and the voters overwhelmingly supported them in the 2002 general elections. There was still a ban on Mr. Erdogan. Mr. Gul became the Prime Minister and his government quickly annulled the ban. In 2003, Mr. Erdogan became Turkey's 25th Prime Minister. He never had to turn back.

Once in power, Mr. Erdogan knew that sitting on a throne is harder than winning one. The biggest challenge he faced in consolidating power was the old secular elite. The AKP did not openly challenge the secular order, nor the powers of the military, immediately. Instead, the government stayed focused on economic reforms and governance, winning over the people. But the détente would not last long. Towards the end of his first term, there was speculation that the Prime Minister was considering Mr. Gul, his long-time comrade, for the post of the country's President. The military high command issued a memo, expressing concerns about the Islamic activities taking place under the AKP government. "It should not be forgotten that the Turkish armed forces are a side in this debate and are a staunch defender of secularism," it read, in an open warning to the AKP.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

For Mr. Erdogan, who saw the military forcing out his former boss Erbakan exactly 10 years ago, it was a critical moment. He should either fight back the military, which had orchestrated four coups since Turkey became a republic, or cave in. He chose the former. The next day, Mr. Erdogan's office issued a statement reminding the Generals that the military was "an institution under the Prime Minister". Later that year, the AKP swept the general elections. Mr. Erdogan returned as the Prime Minister with a stronger mandate. He got Mr. Gul elected President. The military did not make a move.

But a section within the military would try to oust Mr. Erdogan in 2016, who by that time became the President after his two terms as Prime Minister, in a coup attempt. The coup would fail. A resurgent Mr. Erdogan would seize the moment to unleash one of the largest purges in Turkey's history. He turned the old Kemalist order into a museum and built a parallel one with a centralised authority, Islamist roots, and Ottoman nostalgia. He later got the Constitution amended and turned Turkey into an executive Presidency. The military has been tamed; Parliament has been maimed and the post of the Prime Minister abolished. Now there is only one power centre. In 2018, Mr. Erdogan won the presidential election under the new Constitution in the first round. He is now the republican monarch, a modern 'Sultan', as many call him.

Faith as an ally

Throughout his journey from an Islamist outsider in a Kemalist order to the embodiment of a new Islamic Turkey, religion has been Mr. Erdogan's most consistent ally. He knew the old guard were powerful and that he needed something that is more powerful than the military as an ally. He found it in faith. When he was the Mayor of Istanbul, he said he was the city's Imam. While in power, he refashioned the whole of Turkey. In a country where religious symbols were banned in public places, religious nationalism has become the foundation of politics. In June 2020, Mr. Erdogan turned Hagia Sophia, a Byzantine cathedral which was made into a mosque by the Ottomans and then into a museum by Ataturk, again into a mosque. He praised the Ottoman conquests in public rallies. He claimed that "Jerusalem is ours".

When Mr. Erdogan consolidated more powers, he also turned against his critics. Journalists were jailed, opposition politicians were disqualified and Kurdish local governments were dismissed. He allowed the military, now subservient to him, to resume the war against the Kurdish rebels and make incursions into Syria. He was, as Noam Chomsky pointed out, "basically trying to create something like the Ottoman Caliphate, with him as Caliph".

But this consolidation of power has also triggered collective resistance. In the May 14 presidential election, Mr. Erdogan faced Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the united opposition candidate. The AKP's coalition won a majority in Parliament, but Mr. Erdogan failed to win the presidential election in the first round. Like in early 2000s, when an economic crisis helped the fledgling AKP score a victory, Turkey's economy is today struggling with inflation hovering around 40%. There's growing resentment, particularly among urban centres. His Islamist nationalism has started showing signs of ageing, but still keeps him in the lead ahead of Sunday's run-off. The economy may be in trouble and the opposition united, but the Sultan's supporters keep chanting, 'Inshallah Erdogan".

THE GIST

- While being the Mayor of Istanbul, Erdogan was jailed in 1999 for "incitement of religious hatred" after reciting an Islamic poem at a public rally
- Out of prison, he and his comrades in former PM Erbakan's Islamic camp formed the Justice and Development Party, an Islamist conservative party, which came to power in the 2002 elections
- Ever since, Erdogan has steadily remade Turkey's polity, changed its Constitution and emerged as the most powerful leader since Kemal Ataturk

Two hundred years of struggle

Malaiyaha Tamils

Sri Lanka's hill country Tamils, who are commemorating the 200th anniversary of their ancestors' arrival in Ceylon, continue to fight exploitation and discrimination

Meera Srinivasan

Of the many tumultuous chapters in Sri Lanka's history, the one on Malaiyaha (hill country) Tamils is often glossed over. As members of the community commemorate this year the 200th anniversary of their South Indian ancestors' arrival in Ceylon, it is yet again evident how their present realities are constantly weighed down by past injustices.

Brought down by British planters, to work at coffee and tea plantations, the Malaiyaha Tamils have played a crucial role not only in Sri Lanka's export economy, but also in building the island's road and railway infrastructure. The community identifies as a distinct ethnic group, separate from the Tamils of Sri Lanka's north and east, who have a much longer history in the island nation. Its members speak a dialect of Tamil that is different from that spoken in the north or east, and closer in intonation and vocabulary to how it is spoken in Tamil Nadu.

Even today, some 1.5 lakh people, mostly women, from among the Malaiyaha Tamils said to total over a million – these official figures from the decade-old state census are heavily contested – work

on the tea and rubber estates across Sri Lanka's Central Province, Sabaragamuwa Province and Uva Province. About double the number are in the labour force in other sectors, while some work as professionals, or in commerce and trade. They constitute the fourth largest ethnic group on the island, after the Sinhalese, 'Sri Lankan Tamils', and Muslims.

During the economic crisis last year, the hard labour of the Malaiyaha Tamils employed on the tea estates fetched over $1 billion for the foreign exchange-starved country. But their work remains underpaid, exhausting, and dangerous, fraught with leeches and wasp attacks. In a determined campaign, estate workers relentlessly agitated for three years for a pay increase. With their earnings tied to an ambitious productivity target, even their hard-fought and won daily wage of LKR 1,000 (roughly ₹273) is out of reach for most, while the community is among the poorest in Sri Lanka.

Housing and land rights remain elusive, as scores of families continue to live in colonial-era line homes, without basic facilities of sanitation, water and sometimes electricity.

Fight for survival

Brutal exploitation and discrimination have been running themes in this community's history spanning two centuries. The Citizenship Act of 1948, passed months after Sri Lanka's Independence, effectively rendered members of the community stateless and their fight for citizenship continued until as late as 2003. Following the 1964 Pact, signed by Prime Ministers Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Lal Bahadur Shastri, at least half a million Indian origin Tamils were repatriated to India. Those who remained have had to struggle, both for survival, and for acceptance in Sri Lanka.

The Malaiyaha Tamils in Sri Lanka faced communal violence in the anti-Tamil riots of 1958, 1977, 1981 and 1983. These targeted attacks forced several thousands from the community to move to the north and east, where many still reside, at times braving discrimination by Tamils there. During the civil war, the LTTE recruited thousands of hill country-origin youth as combatants.

For many decades, the Ceylon Workers' Congress has been the dominant force in the trade union movement in the plantations, as well as the political landscape, often aligning with the ruling party from the Sinhalese-majority south. More recently, a stable alternative has emerged, to challenge the CWC. In particular, the Tamil Progressive Alliance , now in opposition, has sought to amplify concerns of Malaihaya Tamils, including those outside the estates. Despite their historical connection with India, the Malaiyaha Tamils have, over time, distanced themselves from the "Indian-origin" tag, seeing it as an obstacle to their accessing their political rights and social entitlements as lawful citizens of Sri Lanka. Yet, their struggle, for equal treatment, continues.

A symbol of virtue

Sengol

In Tamil tradition, sceptre represented the idea of righteousness that particularly the kings had to abide by rather than an object

B. Kolappan

Nothing encapsulates the importance of *Sengol* or sceptre more than the words spoken by Chera King Cheran Senguttuvan in *Silapathikaram*, the first Tamil epic with the common man and woman as hero and heroine. When he heard about the death of Pandiyan Nedunchezhian, the King of Madurai, Chera King Senguttuvan says, "Pandiyan offered his life and restored the uprightness of *Sengol* bent by the fate of injustice."

Pandiyan fell from his throne and died after realising that he had committed an injustice by mistakenly ordering capital punishment to Kovalan, the hero and husband of Kannagi. "Am I a king? I am a thief," he utters before his death.

Sengol has drawn the attention of the nation after the BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to keep in the new Parliament building the sceptre presented by the Thiruvavaduthurai Math to the country's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, on the eve of India's Independence.

Sceptre, a decorated rod made of gold and studded with precious stones, is held by kings and queens as a symbol of authority

and power on ceremonial occasions, particularly in Western countries. Recently, during the coronation of King Charles III of the U.K., the Archbishop of Canterbury placed a golden sceptre in his hand.

In Tamil tradition, it represented the idea of righteousness rather than an object.

Fair governance

In the Kanal Vari songs in *Silapathikaram*, Kovalan attributes the flowing of the Cauvery river in all its beauty to the uprightness of the *Sengol* of the Chola king.

"*Sengol* symbolises a just and fair governance by a king. Its converse is authoritarianism or *Kodungol* in Tamil. *Sengol* finds reference even in *Tholkappiyam*, the earliest treatise on Tamil grammar," explained R. Kalaikovan, founder, Rajamanickanar Institute of Historical Research, Tiruchirappalli.

Sengol was one of the 10 constituents of a kingdom besides *venkottra kudai* (white umbrella), *murasu* (drum), *kodi* (flag), *thanai* (Army), *aaru* (river), *malai* (mountain), *thar* (garland), *yaanai* (elephant) and *kuthirai* (horse). Different literary works have included different things.

That *Sengol* is a concept is clearly explained by the chapter on *Sengonmai*, or the Right Sceptre, in *Tirukkural*. "All earth looks up to heav'n whence raindrops fall; All subjects look to king that ruleth all," translates missionary scholar G.U. Pope. Not lance gives kings the victory, but sceptre swayed with equity, says another couplet.

As per the book *Sengol Vendar by* A. Chidambaranathan Chettiar, *Sengol* is a virtue the kings had been particular to abide by than an object to be held. "There is a lot of evidence that supports the argument that ancient Tamil kings remained Kings of just and righteousness (*Sengol*) and strived to offer just and fair governance. They have taken vows to uphold them by fulfilling their duties," he writes.

Tamil scholar D. Gnanasundaram opined that while *Sengol* could be a concept, the word could not be coined without the presence of a physical object. "When we use the word wheel, it is the wheel, the physical object. The idea *Sengol* should have emerged from the upright object. It should not be bent," he said. Mr. Kalaikovan said that though the word *Sengol* found reference in inscriptions, there is no proof that the kings always held it in their hands. The idea of portraying a king with a sceptre seemed to have emerged later. Today in Tamil Nadu, politicians follow the practice of presenting a sceptre to their leaders as a mark of respect.

To justify their claims, the supporters of sceptre circulated a sculpture of Lord Siva holding a rod with a Nandi on the top resembling the one presented to Jawaharlal Nehru. But Mr. Kalaikovan said it is a *Kodithandu* (flagstaff) and not a *Sengol*.

"*Sengol* belonged to the period of kings. I do not think it has any role in democratic government elected by people," he said.

INBRIEF

Triveni Engineering Q4 net rises 74% to ₹190 crore

Triveni Engineering & Industries Ltd.'s net profit rose 74% to ₹190.31 crore in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal year. Net profit stood at ₹109.17 crore in the year-earlier period, according to a regulatory filing. Total income rose to ₹1,839.86 crore in the January-March quarter of 2022-23 from ₹1,195.08 crore in the year-earlier period. The firm is into sugar and engineered-to-order high-speed gears and gearboxes. It is also into water and wastewater management business. PTI

Shahi Exports to implement 'YESS' standards in textile mill

Shahi Exports will implement Responsible Sourcing Network's 'Yarn Ethically & Sustainably Sourced' (YESS) standards, as per a statement. Shahi was one of the seven global suppliers that piloted the YESS standards in 2022 and has now become the first textile mill in India to take the lead in implementing it. YESS is an initiative by Responsible Sourcing Network to achieve a forced-labour free cotton supply chain for the garment and textile industry.

Sun proposes to fully acquire Israel's Taro Pharmaceutical

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries said it has proposed to fully acquire Israel-based Taro Pharmaceutical Industries through a reverse triangular merger. The Mumbai-based drug major said it has issued a letter to the Taro board with a proposal containing a non-binding indication of interest to acquire all of the outstanding ordinary shares for a purchase price of $38 per ordinary share in cash. Sun Pharma currently owns 78.48% stake in Taro. PTI

'Customs' payment glitch largely resolved'

Cargo clearance not hit by introduction of new Electronic Credit Ledger (ECL) payment system on Icegate portal, says senior government official; importers say system has improved in recent weeks but minor glitches remain, some in Tiruppur seek revival of net banking facility for payments

M. Soundariya Preetha
Vikas Dhoot
COIMBATORE/ NEW DELHI

Payment issues that had plagued importers following the switchover to a new customs collection interface from April 1 have largely been sorted out now, according to senior government officials, but industry continues to face a few hiccups with the process.

"To the best of my knowledge, cargo clearance has not faced problems even when the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) introduced a new Electronic Credit Ledger (ECL) payment system on the Icegate portal for importers," a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

"The problem was with regard to the integration with the payment gateway, which they have managed to sort out. But for that, cargoes were not being held up," he asserted, stressing that April's reduction in India's goods import bill was in no way linked to the payment platform's challenges.

Ironing it out

Payment issues plaguing importers in the wake of the April 1 switchover to new customs interface has largely been resolved

- Problem was with regard to integration with the payment gateway, says official
- Importers say new system has seen some improvements in recent weeks
- Tiruppur textile unit official says payment system works well on most days but erratic on some causing uncertainty

In April, imports shrank 14% to a 15-month low of $49.90 billion, as per the Commerce Ministry's initial estimates.

Importers say that the new system has seen some improvements in recent weeks but some problems keep cropping up.

"Despite our best efforts, we faced problems with sending payments to credit ledgers via online banking and other NEFT/ RTGS processes at the Icegate Portal," said a garment exporter.

"Additionally, we experienced errors while carrying out the payment process," added the exporter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"This had caused delays in clearing import shipments at ports for the past 30 days, resulting in significant demurrages. We are unable to meet the production schedules for export orders," he added.

A textile unit in Tiruppur said the payment system worked well on most days. "[Still] there is uncertainty on when the system will work fine or act up," said its accounts manager.

Tiruppur Exporters Association president K.M. Subramanian said while online duty payment was getting delayed, importers could pay at banks.

ONGC posts ₹248 cr. Q4 loss on provision

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's top oil and gas producer ONGC posted a surprise loss in the March quarter after it made over ₹12,100 crore provision for a contested tax liability.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) reported a net loss of ₹247.7 crore in the January-March quarter compared with a net profit of ₹8,859.54 crore a year earlier, the company said in a statement.

Service tax department at various work centres had raised a demand for payment of service tax on the royalty the company paid to the State and central government on crude oil and natural gas it produces from below ground. The company challenged the demands in courts.

"The company has reviewed the entire issue of disputed service tax and GST on royalty and has decided to make a provision towards these disputed taxes as a prudent and conservative practice," it said in the statement. This, it said, "adversely impacted profitability".

China's April industrial profits fall 18%, demand falters

Reuters
BEIJING

Profits at China's industrial firms slumped in the first four months of 2023, official data showed on Saturday, as companies continued to struggle with margin pressures and soft demand amid a faltering economic recovery.

Profits fell 20.6% in January-April from a year earlier, compared with a 21.4% decline in the first three months, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

In April, industrial firms posted a 18.2% drop in profit year-on-year, according to the NBS.

TII to invest ₹300-400 cr. in FY24 to fuel its EV platform

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) would be investing about ₹300-400 crore during this fiscal in TI Clean Mobility Pvt. Ltd. (TICMPL) to fuel its EV growth plans.

"About ₹400 crore will be spent by TICMPL for product development or manufacturing EVs," said TII managing director Mukesh Ahuja during an analysts call.

TII's wholly-owned subsidiary announced its foray into the EV space to manufacture and market electric three-wheelers, tractors and heavy commercial vehicles. The electric three-wheeler Montra was

Mukesh Ahuja

launched during December 2022. It is currently being sold in Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

Asserting that there was a delay in truck manufacturing due to completion of AIS-156 Part 2 homologation, he said: "We are waiting for official certificate, although we were ready for manufacturing."

On production capacity, TICMPL MD K.K. Paul said that the company has a capacity to manufacture 90,000 units of electric three wheelers annually, followed by 25,000 units of tractors and 2,500-3,000 units of heavy-duty trucks.

TII, meanwhile, has set aside a capex of another ₹800 crore for its existing engineering business and for new initiatives, said chief financial officer AN Meyyappan.

Out of the total standalone capex of ₹800 crore, about ₹285 crore is for contract development and manufacturing, ₹233 crore for Lotus Surgicals Pvt. Ltd. and the balance is for the engineering and metal form businesses.

IMF, others urged to give $100 billion climate vow

Reuters
LONDON

A meeting in Paris next month will lay out a $100 billion plan to drive more money into climate and development finance in poorer countries by providing currency guarantees to investors, according to a document seen by Reuters.

The plan, which has not previously been reported, was sent to the world's governments in June by the Bridgetown Initiative spearheaded by Barbados leader Mia Mottley.

The idea would rely on the firepower of the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral development banks.

Chemplast eyes ₹1,000-cr. via custom manufacturing

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Ramkumar Shankar

Specialty-chemicals maker Chemplast Sanmar Ltd. is aiming at a threefold rise in revenue from custom-manufacturing business to ₹1,000 crore over the next three to four years, post the completion of the two-phase expansion programme at Berigai, MD Ramkumar Shankar said.

"Both our capex projects – the 41,000 ton per annum Paste PVC expansion at Cuddalore and the multipurpose blocks at Berigai for the custom manufactured chemicals business – are on track," he said on an analysts' call.

According to him, the first phase of the custom-manufactured chemicals project is expected to be commissioned by the first half of FY24 and the next phase by March 2024.

"Post the commissioning of both the phases, at a steady state, we are targeting to reach a top line of around ₹1,000 crore from this business in the next three to four years."

The custom-manufacturing business registered a 30% growth in FY23 revenue at ₹325 crore, added CFO N. Muralidharan.

Advanced intermediate

In November 2022, the company had entered into a LOI for the supply of an advanced intermediate for new active ingredients, followed by another last week. The recent one is valid for five years from the current year, he added.

"We anticipate commercial supplies to start from Q4," Mr. Shankar said. "This new product will be manufactured in the new multi-purpose production block. The combined revenue potential of these two LOIs over the period of the contract is around ₹800 crore through two products," Mr. Shankar added.

SIMA seeks removal of cotton duty to steady prices

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

'Earlier, farmers and traders held over 47% of their cotton hoping for abnormal rise in prices'

The textile industry has sought withdrawal of import duty on at least some varieties of cotton from June to October as was done during the last cotton season to bring stability in cotton prices in the coming months.

Domestic cotton prices have seen a sharp fall in the last few days. The price of the widely-used Shankar-6 variety was ₹60,500 a candy on May 20 and was at ₹55,700 on Saturday.

Chairman of the Southern India Mills' Association Ravi Sam said that only now are Indian cotton prices on par with international prices. Only about 270 lakh bales of cotton arrived in the market during the current cotton season (October - September, 2023) as against the estimated production of 337 lakh bales. The monthly arrival in April, however, was 42.82 lakh bales as against 7.39 lakh bales last April.

"The abnormal month on month kapas price (that) prevailed last cotton season made the farmers and kapas traders to hold over 47% of the cotton hoping for abnormal price increase despite Cotton Corporation of India announcing closure of MSP operations," he said. The prices exceeded ₹1.1 lakh a candy during April 2022.

Mr. Sam noted the global cotton season will begin in August and added that the remaining domestic cotton should come into the market so that Indian prices remain stable.

Aurobindo Pharma Q4 net dips 12% to ₹505.9 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Aurobindo Pharma reported consolidated net profit for the March quarter declined more than 12% to ₹505.9 crore.

Revenue from operations increased more than 11% to ₹6,472.96 crore. Aiding the increase was a 51% rise in Formulations sales to ₹592 crore in 'Growth Markets,' including India, which also helped blunt the impact of a 32% decline in ARV revenue to ₹159 crore during the quarter.

For the fiscal, the company reported a more than 27% decline in net profit to ₹1,927.6 crore.

THE HINDU GROUP

SMART
IS NOW
A LOT
SMARTER.

COMING SOON

FRONTLINE
INDIA'S NATIONAL MAGAZINE

FINANCIAL BONANZA

How rich will be the IPL 2023 winner and runner-up?

A ₹20 crore bounty awaits the winner of the Indian Premier League on Sunday while the runner-up team will take home ₹13 crore. Mumbai Indians, which finished third and crashed out of the second qualifier, will pocket ₹7 crore while Lucknow Super Giants, which lost in the Eliminator is set to take home ₹6.5 crore.

STEADYING EFFECT

Hardik's calmness reminds one of Dhoni, feels Gavaskar

Former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar has lavished praise on Gujarat Titans captain Hardik Pandya, saying the calmness he brings into the team reminds him of 'Captain Cool' Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Gujarat Titans is a happy team, exactly like Chennai Super Kings and Hardik has to take a lot of credit for that, Gavaskar said.

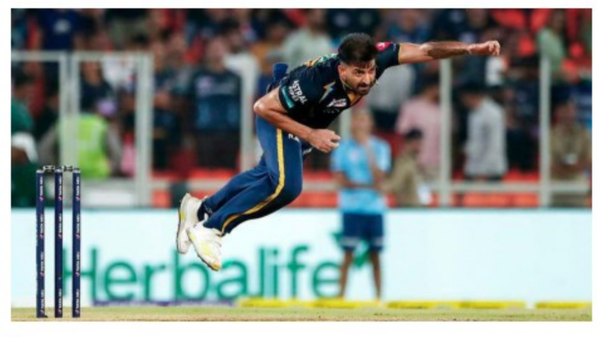
SPREAD THE NET

MI will look for replacements if bowlers are not fit, says Boucher

Head coach Mark Boucher says Mumbai Indians will look for replacements for frontline bowlers if they are not fit within time. The team had to cope with the absence of Bumrah, Australia pacer Richardson, who failed to make it to India with a hamstring injury, and Archer, who missed many games due to elbow injury.

SAFE THAN SORRY

Didn't want to experiment against SKY, says Mohit



Gujarat Titans speedster Mohit Sharma said the strategy was to not experiment much against Mumbai Indians batter Suryakumar Yadav in Qualifier 2. "I thought I wouldn't experiment when Suryakumar is batting as that's what we studied ahead of the game," said the Titans pacer who finished with figures of 2.2-0-10-5.

Super Kings and Titans in a battle for the holy grail

Dhoni seeks to underline his stature as the country's best-ever white-ball skipper; Hardik's chance to prove that he can one day emulate Captain Cool; Chennai eyes a fifth title, Gujarat its second

IPL-16

N. Sudarshan
AHMEDABAD

When Gujarat Titans met Chennai Super Kings in this season's Indian Premier League opener in late March, the question was whether a young and fledgling outfit could hold up against the onslaught of a proven winner.

It didn't matter that GT was the defending champion, having seen only growth during every moment of its existence since late 2021. CSK, despite appearing to have lost its mojo a bit after finishing ninth in the previous edition, was seen as a wounded tiger on the prowl.

Two months since, they will meet on an equal footing in the grand finale at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

They sparred in Qualifier 1 just days ago in Chennai, a match CSK won by 15 runs. But it's the summit clash that will have a definitive feel to it, for it will crown this season's best.

The game also presents Hardik Pandya with a chance to test his leadership acumen against M.S. Dhoni – the country's best-ever white-ball leader – on one of cricket's biggest stages. After all, among the many pleasurable experiences in sport is to watch a talented upstart trying to topple an established star still at his prime rather than wait for an impending void.

Hardik has enough talent at his disposal to achieve that. Shubman Gill leads the IPL run-getters' chart (851 runs), while Mohammed Shami, Rashid Khan and Mohit Sharma are atop the wicket-takers' list with 28, 27 and 24 scalps respectively.

The way GT bounced back from the defeat to CSK to pummel Mumbai Indians on Friday spoke volumes about the side's mental make-up. Having already featured in a final last year, also in Ahmedabad, GT is unlikely to suffer from stage fright, though a sophomore's test can be tricky.

On the other hand, CSK is a four-time titlist. It may have lost five finals, but Dhoni's isn't quite the side that will be weighed down by the emotional baggage.

The greying, yet sharp, talisman is like an outsized blotting paper that absorbs all the excess ink so that the pen can keep scripting success stories. Even the constant chatter around the 41-year-old's retirement hasn't affected the dugout.

"It is pretty easy when you have a superstar who does the job so well," said Stephen Fleming, on match-eve. "That's allowed us to work below the surface and just be a foil for him when he needs some advice or support.

"He is like the rest of the players, his form goes up and down. But what he is very consistent with is the tone that he sets. Some of our secrets... continuity of people, belief in players and calmness under pressure... these are traits that come from him and we are able to add to that."

The likes of Devon Conway (625 runs) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (564) have revelled while Ravindra Jadeja, after last year's captaincy fiasco, has quietly come into his own. And in pacer Matheesha Pathirana, CSK looks to have unearthed a gem.

Thus on Sunday, excellence won't be in short supply. But it is perfection that wins crunch matches.

TODAY'S MATCH

THE FINAL

Chennai Super Kings vs. Gujarat Titans

Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **4**

CSK **1** | GT **3**

FORM GUIDE
(last five matches, latest game first)

CSK	W	W	L	W	W
GT	W	L	W	W	L

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

Quo vadis: Will Hardik retain the cup or will Dhoni reclaim it is the question on everyone's lips.

Masters of the chase

Super Kings and Titans have performed well while pursuing a total though Dhoni's men have done better while defending totals this season

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Edition	First batting	Defending wins	Second batting	Chasing wins
2008	9	4	7	5
2009	10	6	4	2
2010	8	5	8	4
2011	12	8	4	3
2012	11	4	6	5
2013	8	7	10	5
2014	7	3	9	7
2015	11	7	6	3
2018	6	3	10	8
2019	6	3	11	7
2020	4	1	10	5
2021	10	5	6	6
2022	10	3	4	1
2023	9	6	5	3

Wins while defending : **65/121** (53.72%)
Wins while chasing: **64/100** (64.00%)

GUJARAT TITANS

Edition	First batting	Defending wins	Second batting	Chasing wins
2022	7	4	9	8
2023	7	5	9	6

Wins while defending: **14/18** (64.28%)
Wins while chasing: **9/14** (77.78%)

COMPILED BY **MAITREYI S & KEERTHANA SHANKAR**

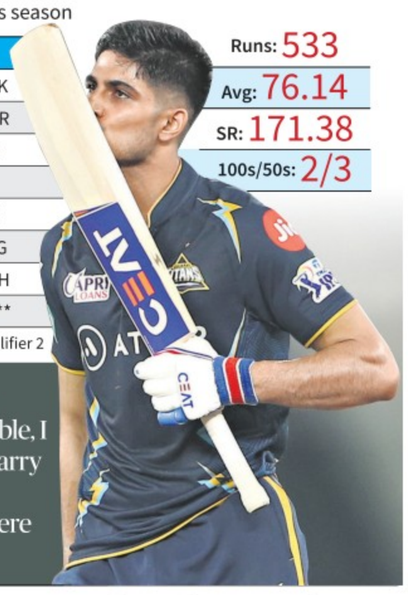
The Gill fort

The Orange Cap holder has been prolific at the Narendra Modi Stadium this season

Score	Vs
63 (36b)	CSK
39 (31b)	KKR
45 (34b)	RR
56 (34b)	MI
6 (7b)	DC
94* (51b)	LSG
101 (58b)	SRH
129 (60b)	MI**

**Qualifier 2

Runs: 533
Avg: 76.14
SR: 171.38
100s/50s: 2/3



If it's possible, I will definitely carry it (Ahmedabad pitch) everywhere we play

It is a big occasion, but we can't afford to dream too much: Fleming

N. Sudarshan
AHMEDABAD

Chennai Super Kings may be playing its 10th Indian Premier League final, against Gujarat Titans, here on Sunday, but head coach Stephen Fleming admitted that there were still a few butterflies in the stomach.

"It is a big occasion. The game doesn't change but the outcome does," Fleming said on Saturday.

"It is hard not to look too far ahead and dream of winning it again. It is what we set out to do at the start. That is our purpose."

"We are just trying to contain that excitement and stay in the present. That is one of the great challenges. Gujarat is an excellent side, the most consistent this season, and we can't afford to dream too much.

"But this is why we are here and the nerves of the big stage just simmer away. It is a good thing to have. It is just about how you work with it and sink into the game."

This season in Chennai, CSK has had to deal with tricky pitches, and Fleming said that had made the four-time champion a better side.

"[In the past] we geared ourselves up so well for Chennai that we struggled in different conditions. The finals were always a bit of a challenge and our record is about 50% in winning them.

"This year we are a bit more rounded and we had to be because of that reason [playing in Chennai]. I wanted to bowl in the last qualifying game (vs. Delhi Capitals) but batting proved to be the right call. In that last game (vs. GT), MS [Dhoni] felt that way. So we were well off the mark in trying to get the conditions right.

"But the team is rounded enough, and come the final, we are not as worried about what conditions we are going to get. We are a lot better-placed than we have been in the past."

'Defending' champions

A rundown of how events unfolded during every IPL final so far

Wins while defending: **9/15 (60%)**
Wins while chasing: **6/15 (40%)**

Season	Result	Runner-up	Toss	Call
2008	RR won by 3 wkts (off final ball)	CSK	RR	Field
2009	Deccan Chargers won by 6 runs	RCB	RCB	Field
2010	CSK won by 22 runs	MI	CSK	Field
2011	CSK won by 58 runs	RCB	CSK	Bat
2012	KKR won by 5 wkts (two balls to spare)	CSK	CSK	Bat
2013	MI won by 23 runs	CSK	MI	Bat
2014	KKR won by 3 wkts (three balls remaining)	KXIP	KKR	Field
2015	MI won by 41 runs	CSK	CSK	Field
2016	SRH won by 8 runs	RCB	SRH	Bat
2017	MI won by 1 run	RPS	MI	Bat
2018	CSK won by 8 wkts (nine balls to spare)	SRH	CSK	Field
2019	MI won by 1 run	CSK	MI	Bat
2020	MI won by 5 wkts (8 balls remaining)	DC	DC	Bat
2021	CSK won by 27 runs	KKR	KKR	Field
2022	GT won by 7 wkts (11 balls to spare)	RR	RR	Bat

Chose to bat: 8/15 (53.33%) | **Chose to field: 7/15** (46.67%) | **Chose to bat and won: 5/8** (62.50%) | **Chose to field and won: 3/7** (42.85%) | **Won the toss and the match: 8/15** (53.33%)

COMPILED BY KEERTHANA SHANKAR

Scaling Mt. 250

Dhoni is set to become the first player to appear in 250 IPL matches when he leads the Super Kings in the IPL final against Gujarat Titans on Sunday. A look at his journey.

Teams: CSK, RPS; **Matches**: 249; **Runs**: 5082; **HS**: 84*; **SR**: 135.96; **Avg**: 39.09 ; **50s**: 24

CAPTAINCY RECORD
For CSK
Matches: **211**
Won: **127**
For RPS
Matches: **14**
Won: **5**

- Dhoni has a strike rate of 187.33 at the death overs (last four overs)
- He is also placed fourth on the six hitting charts, with 239 maximums under his belt
- The 41-year-old has won 59% of the matches he has captained
- He has led his side to 10 finals, the most by a captain in IPL

COMPILED BY MAITHREYI S

Shami, Rashid and Mohit have been brilliant: Solanki

N. Sudarshan
AHMEDABAD

Vikram Solanki, Director of Cricket at Gujarat Titans, felt that the experience of having played in an IPL final last year, and that too at home, will have the side in good stead when it takes on Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Sunday.

"You are better for the experience of having played the final here and been successful," Solanki said. "CSK has been a fabulous team for a good number of years and we respect that. But we try and prepare ourselves to be competitive against everybody."

The trio of Mohammed Shami, Rashid Khan and Mohit Sharma has accounted for 79 wickets this season and Solanki said that has been the side's USP.

"We have always been minded of being an attack that is able to take wickets under different conditions, through different phases. All three have been quite brilliant for us."

Shining star

Making waves: Pathirana's impressive economy and strike rate have kept Super Kings in good stead. K.R. DEEPAK

INBRIEF

Jyothi strikes gold with Asia's fastest time this year

National record-holder Jyothi Yarraji opened her international outdoor season with a season-best 12.84s while winning the women's 100m hurdles gold at the Kurpfalz Gala athletics meet, a World Athletics Continental Tour-Challenger event, at Weinheim in Germany, on Saturday. It is the fastest time by an Asian this year. Jyothi's National record, which came in Bengaluru last October, stands at 12.82s. Jyothi was representing the Reliance Sports Foundation in the event. Meanwhile, Sapna Kumari, also from the RSF, was sixth in 13.81s.

Parul Chaudhary bags 3000m steeplechase bronze

Indian athlete Parul Chaudhary extended her good start to the season by winning the bronze medal in the women's 3000m steeplechase in the USATF Los Angeles Grand Prix athletics meet in Los Angeles on Friday. Parul clocked a new personal best of 9:29.51 to finish third. Her previous personal best was 9:38.09. And in the men's 1500m 'B' final, Asian Games champion Jinson Johnson was 11th in a season-best 3:42.97s while Rahul took the next spot with 3:43.83.

Indian women's hockey team posts 2-1 win over Australia-A

The Indian women's hockey team put up a spirited showing in the fifth and final game of its tour Down Under, registering a 2-1 win over Australia-A here on Saturday. Navneet Kaur (10th minute) and Deep Grace Ekka (25th) scored for India. Abigail Wilson (22th) reduced the margin.

Jehan Daruvala climbs to Monaco podium again

Jehan Daruvala raced to his second Monaco podium in as many years after a hard-fought battle in the Formula 2 Championship's Sprint race on Saturday. The 24-year-old, who drives for Dutch team MP Motorsport, finished behind winner Ayumu Iwasa in a safety car-interrupted race. His drive was good enough to earn him a third podium of the season, and his 18th rostrum result, in Formula 2. "It's a case of mixed feelings right now, to be honest," said Jehan after the race. "Coming so close to victory that too here in Monaco, only to miss out at the end is slightly frustrating."

Svitolina reaches first final after becoming a mother

Former World No. 3 Elina Svitolina reached her first WTA final since becoming a mother last year, beating France's Clara Burel 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 in Strasbourg on Friday.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m.
BWF: Malaysia Masters, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 a.m.
Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 4, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)
Formula One: Monaco GP, F1 TV & F1 TV Pro, 6.30 p.m.
IPL: (final), Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 p.m.
Athletics: Diamond League, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11.30 p.m.

Djokovic eyes a record-breaking 23rd Grand Slam title

The Serb will not have to contend with his old rival Nadal who has given the tournament a miss; Sabalenka and Rybakina stand in the way as Swiatek attempts to become first woman to defend the title at Roland Garros in 16 years

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Novak Djokovic will bid for a record-breaking 23rd Grand Slam title at a French Open without his old rival Rafael Nadal for the first time since 2004, while Iga Swiatek attempts to become the first woman to defend the title in 16 years.

Serbian veteran Djokovic will not be the favourite for the title, though, after struggling with an elbow injury and failing to get past the quarterfinals in any of his three clay-court events so far this season.

Carlos Alcaraz won in Barcelona and Madrid en route to taking over from Djokovic as World No. 1, while Daniil Medvedev is seeded second for Roland Garros after his maiden clay triumph in Rome.

Djokovic and Alcaraz are seeded to meet in the semifinals. The 36-year-old Djokovic may also have to get past Monte Carlo Masters champion Andrey Rublev in the quarterfinals.

The other side of the draw appears wide open, with in-form Medvedev the highest seed despite never having previously got past the quarterfinals on the Paris clay. The Russian lost in the first round on each of his first four visits before making the quarters in 2021.

The winner of the women's singles is expected to be one of the trio of reigning champion Swiatek, Australian Open winner Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina. They have won the last four Grand Slam titles between them and at least one of them has featured in every WTA 1000 final this season.

Swiatek, who turns 22 during the tournament, will be the favourite as she chases a third Roland Garros triumph.

Roland-Garros in numbers

0 This year's French Open will be the first Grand Slam without a single British woman in the singles main draw since the 2009 US Open

2 In the Open Era (since 1968), only two French players have won the singles titles at Roland-Garros: Yannick Noah won the men's crown in 1983 and Mary Pierce the women's title in 2000

4 From 1891 to 1924 (with no tournaments from 1915 to 1919 due to World War 1), the tournament was played at four venues in France. The current Stadium, named after the French aviator Roland Garros, was built and used for the first time in 1928

6 Indians have won six titles at the French Open - three in mixed doubles and three in men's doubles

Mixed doubles
1997: Mahesh Bhupathi and Rika Hiraki (Jpn)
2012: Mahesh Bhupathi and Sania Mirza
2017: Rohan Bopanna and Gabriela Dabrowski (Can)

Men's doubles
1999: Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi
2001: Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi
2009: Leander Paes and Lukas Dlouhy (Czech)

Swiatek... 2022 winner

14 Rafael Nadal has won 14 French Open titles, the most by a player at a Major

16 Monica Seles won the first of her three French Open titles at the age of 16 years 6 months in 1990. She is still the youngest singles champion at Roland-Garros

SUNDAY'S PICKS

Women
- Sabalenka vs Kostyuk
- Sakkari vs Muchova
- Pegula vs Collins
- Kasatkina vs Niemeier

Men
- Tsitsipas vs Vesely
- Rublev vs Djere
- Khachanov vs Lestienne
- Hurkacz vs Goffin

COMPILED BY NIHIT SACHDEVA

Bhowneesh finishes fifth in shotgun World Cup in Almaty

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Olympic quota winner Bhowneesh Mendiratta finished fifth in trap in the shotgun World Cup in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Saturday.

Bhowneesh did well to shoot 121, following a series of 25, 23, 25, 24 and 24 to make the final.

Massimo Fabbrizi of Italy beat qualification topper James Willett of Australia 46-43 for the gold.

In women's trap, Shreyasi Singh shot 114 and missed the final by two points.

The results:
Trap: Men: 1. Fabrbrizi Massimo (Ita) 46 (122); 2. James Wilett (Aus) 43 (123); 3. Khaled Almudhaf (Kuw) 34 (122); 5. Bhowneesh Mendiratta 24 (121); 16. Zoravar Singh Sandhu 117; 17. Prithviraj Tondaiman 117. RPO: Lakshay Sheoran 113.
Women: 1. Mar Molne (Esp) 42 (116); 2. Fatima Galvez (Esp) 37 (119); 3. Catherine Skinner (Aus) 28 (120); 11. Shreyasi Singh 114.

Fast Pace claims the War Hammer Million

BENGALURU: M/s. Kunal Gupta Stud Farm LLP's Fast Pace (Ajeeth Kumar up) won the War Hammer Million the chief event of the races held here on Saturday (May 27). The winner is trained by B. Prithviraj.

THE RESULTS

1. ROYAL TERN PLATE: ENABLING (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Fort Nelson (Zervan) 2, Alexina (Santosh Raj) 3 and Amazing Attraction (Trevor) 4. Nose, 2-3/4 and 1/2. 1m 13.07s. ₹162 (w), 27, 10 and 51 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 98, FP: 474, Q: 112, Trinella: 7,983, Exacta: 24,313. Favourite: Fort Nelson.
Owners: Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla & Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

2. SUPERVITE PLATE (DIV. II): DEFINING POWER (Rajesh K) 1, Bruce Almighty (Rayan) 2, Solid Power (Arvind K) 3 and Glow In The Dark (R. Girish) 4. Not run: Spirit Of Love. 1-3/4, 1 and 3-1/4. 1m 26.11s. ₹44 (w), 15, 17 and 12 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 50, FP: 432, Q: 136, Trinella: 638, Exacta: 2,231. Favourite: Solid Power.
Owner: Mr. S.N. Harish. Trainer: Narayana Gowda.

3. USHA STUD PLATE: RAPIDUS (Akshay K) 1, Win My Luv (Sonu K) 2, Crown Consort (Yash) 3 and Kulsum (S. Saqlain) 4. 1-1/2, Nk and 2. 1m 12.84s. ₹27 (w), 14, 21 and 15 (p), SHP: 62, THP: 68, FP: 109, Q: 90, Trinella: 427, Exacta: 1,141. Favourite: Rapidus.
Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala & Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

4. K.N. GURUSWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY: IN THY LIGHT (Akshay K) 1, Meropi (Trevor) 2, Anzac Pipenal (S. Saqlain) 3 and She Can (P.S. Chouhan) 4. 1, Lnk and 5. 1m 24.40s. ₹23 (w), 13, 11 and 14 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 32, FP: 61, Q: 32, Trinella: 106, Exacta: 212. Favourite: Meropi.
Owners: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Rajendran, Mr. Meka Yugandhar & Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

5. COL. DESRAJ URS TROPHY: ARTEMIS IGNACIA (S. Saqlain) 1, Siege Courageous (Akshay K) 2, Amreli (Trevor) 3 and Galactical (Arvind K) 4. 1, Nk and 3/4. 1m 11.74s. ₹63 (w), 17, 10 and 15 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 51, FP: 157, Q: 82, Trinella: 371, Exacta: 11,953. Favourite: Siege Courageous.
Owners: Mr. Balasubramanya R & Mr. Lohith Anand. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

6. WAR HAMMER MILLION: FAST PACE (Ajeet K) 1, Elpenor (Akshay K) 2, Waikiki (N.S. Parmar) 3 and Auspicious Queen (Trevor) 4. Not run: Born To Be Spoilt and Diamond Gold. Hd, 1-1/4 and Nk. 1m 24.97s. ₹101 (w), 20, 12 and 16 (p), SHP: 52, THP: 38, FP: 332, Q: 72, Trinella: 1,362, Exacta: 2,526. Favourite: Elpenor.
Owner: M/S. Kunal Gupta Stud Farm LLP. Trainer: B. Prithviraj.

7. MINISTERIAL PLATE: THE GODFATHER (Trevor) 1, Sea The Sun (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Ruling Dynasty (Akshay K) 3 and N R I Fairy (N.S. Parmar) 4. 2-1/4, 2 and 3-1/4. 1m 38.49s. ₹15 (w), 11, 12 and 14 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 29, FP: 39, Q: 23, Trinella: 61, Exacta: 463. Favourite: The Godfather.
Owners: Mrs. B.E. Saldanha & Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy. Trainer: M. Narredu.

8. SUPERVITE PLATE (DIV. I): MEASURE OF TIME (Rayan) 1, Silver Canyon (Trevor) 2, Always Happy (G. Vivek) 3 and Dragon's Gold (Akshay K) 4. Not run: Caesars Palace. 1, 4-1/2 and 2-1/2. 1m 26.00s. ₹268 (w), 39, 10 and 14 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 45, FP: 3,308, Q: 323, Trinella: 6,932, Exacta: 68,249. Favourite: Silver Canyon.
Owners: Dr. K. Raghavan, Dr. Arun Raghavan, Mr. Anil Saraf & Mr. Dayanand Kachuwah. Trainer: Faraz Arshad.

Jackpot: ₹61,077 (carried over); Runner up: 1,539 (17 tkts); Treble (i): 391 (28 tkts); (ii): 13,548 (carried over).

Northern Lights expected to score

BENGALURU: Northern Lights, who has been well-prepared, is expected to score in the Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Cup (1,400m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Sunday (May 28).

False rails (width about 5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 LADY GIBRALTAR PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 1.00 pm: 1. Akasi (5) Chethan K 62.5, 2. Eastern Sea (6) J.H. Arul 62.5, 3. Raffles (8) A. Imran 62.5, 4. Altair (12) Sai Kiran 62, 5. Secret Lady (4) Akshay K 61.5, 6. Venus (2) Likith Appu 61.5, 7. Benignity (7) P. Surya 60.5, 8. Double Vision (10) S. Saqlain 60.5, 9. Mega Success (9) Jagadeesh 60, 10. Ultimate Choice (3) Vishal Bunde 57, 11. Max Mueller (1) Vinod Shinde 56.5 and 12. Perfect Halo (11) Rajesh K 54.

1. SECRET LADY, 2. VENUS, 3. MEGA SUCCESS

2 RAMKIRPAL PLATE (Div. III), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 1.30: 1. Belvedere (3) Akshay K 60, 2. Fare Weather (6) Hasib 59, 3. My Solitaire (4) Chethan K 59, 4. The Golden Dream (5) Khurshad 58, 5. Ozark (8) S. Saba 57.5, 6. Princess Jasmine (1) Vishal Bunde 57, 7. Golden Starlet (7) Rajesh K 56.5, 8. Anne Boleyn (9) Tousif 55 and 9. Firefinch (2) Arvind K 54.5.

1. GOLDEN STARLET, 2. BELVEDERE, 3. THE GOLDEN DREAM

3 BEAUTIFUL BABE PLATE (Div. II), maiden 3-y-o, only, (Terms), 2.00: 1. Indian Sniper (3) Abhay S 56, 2. Rainbow Dreamer (5) Zervan 56, 3. Royal Mysore (7) G. Vivek 56, 4. Vayu (4) A. Ramu 56, 5. Golden Peaks (2) Akshay K 54.5, 6. Jahzara (1) Hindu S 54.5, 7. Sassy (8) Trevor 54.5 and 8. Snowpiercer (6) P.S. Chouhan 54.5.

1. ROYAL MYSORE, 2. GOLDEN PEAKS, 3. SASSY

4 RAMKIRPAL PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 2.30: 1. The Omega Man (4) Rayan 60, 2. Slice Of Heaven (6) Arvind K 58.5, 3. Step To Destiny (8) Vinod Shinde 58.5, 4. Air Display (9) Vivek 58, 5. Foi (7) Vishal Bunde 57.5, 6. White Roses (2) Shreyas S 57.5, 7. Domina (5) K. Nazil 56.5, 8. Opus One (3) S. Saqlain 56.5 and 9. The Athabasca (1) P. Siddaraju 56.5.

1. OPUS ONE, 2. WHITE ROSES, 3. THE ATHABASCA

5 V.T. VELU MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 3.00: 1. Place Vendome (6) Akshay K 60, 2. Tignanello (8) Likith Appu 59, 3. Splendido (2) Vinod Shinde 58.5, 4. Christofle (7) Trevor 58, 5. Four Wheel Drive (5) J.H. Arul 57, 6. Stellar Gold (1) Bhawani S 54, 7. Ramiel (3) Hindu S 51.5 and 8. Miracle Mary (4) S. Saqlain 51.

1. CHRISTOFLE, 2. MIRACLE MARY, 3. PLACE VENDOME

6 JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR CUP (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, 3.30: 1. A Star Is Born (4) Yash 60.5, 2. Northern Lights (1) P.S. Chouhan 59, 3. Mojito (8) N.S. Parmar 57.5, 4. Forseti (2) Trevor 54.5, 5. Imperial Blue (6) S. Saqlain 54, 6. Siege Perilous (5) Akshay K 54, 7. Cool Rider (9) Zervan 53, 8. De Villiers (7) Shreyas S 53, 9. Dun It Again (10) Hindu S 53 and 10. Das (3) Vishal Bunde 51.5.

1. NORTHERN LIGHTS, 2. A STAR IS BORN, 3. IMPERIAL BLUE

7 BEAUTIFUL BABE PLATE (Div. I), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4.00: 1. Crown Witness (4) VInod Shinde 56, 2. Double Scotch (1) Akshay K 56, 3. Dynamic Force (3) G. Vivek 56, 4. Knight Defensor (6) S. Saqlain 56, 5. Pneuma (5) Hindu S 56, 6. River Of Gold (7) Trevor 56, 7. Neziah (8) P.S. Chouhan 54.5 and 8. Sparkle N Shine (2) Hasib 54.5.

1. NEZIAH, 2. DYNAMIC FORCE, 3. DOUBLE SCOTCH

8 RAMKIRPAL PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 4.30: 1. Striking Memory (9) Abhay S 62.5, 2. Schafenberg (2) Rayan 61.5, 3. Agera (6) R. Pradeep 60.5, 4. Alcides Synergy (4) A. Imran 60, 5. Seoul (7) Bhawani S 59, 6. Twilight Fame (5) Rajesh K 58.5, 7. Appsara (8) Kiran Naidu 58, 8. Remontoir (3) A. Ramu 58 and 9. Eco Friendly (1) Sai Kiran 57.5.

1. ALCIDES SYNERGY, 2. AGERA, 3. REMONTOIR

Day's best: **ROYAL MYSORE**
Double: **CHRISTOFLE - NORTHERN LIGHTS**
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i); 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

Balaji and Jeevan lose in final

INDIANS ABROAD

Sports Bureau

Top seeds Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan were beaten 7-6(5), 6-3 in the doubles final by Petr Nouza and Andrew Paulson in the doubles final of the €73,000 Cahllenger tennis tournament in Skopje, Macedonia, on Saturday.

The champion team collected 75 ATP points and €4,250. The Indian pair won 50 points and €2,450.

Other results: $15,000 ITF men, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Singles (semifinals): Benjamin Lock (Zim) bt SD Prajwal Dev 3-6, 6-4, 6-2; Rishab Agarwal bt Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) 6-7(4), 6-2, 6-0. **Doubles (final):** SD Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Alec Beckley & Kris Van Wyk (RSA) 6-3, 6-0.

$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (final): Lauryn John-Baptiste (GBR) & Yasmin Mansouri (Fra) bt Sharmada Balu & Lamis Aziz (Egy) 6-3, 6-1; **Semifinals:** Sharmada & Lamis bt Chiraz Bechri (Tun) & Yasmin Ezzat (Egy) 6-3, 3-6, [11-9].

$15,000 ITF women, Recife, Brazil: Singles (quarterfinals): Konishi Silva (Bra) bt Smriti Bhasin 7-5, 7-6(1).

Verstappen clinches maiden pole at Monaco Grand Prix

FORMULA ONE

Agence France-Presse
MONACO

Max Verstappen claimed pole for the Monaco Grand Prix with Fernando Alonso keeping the Red Bull world champion company on the front row after qualifying on Saturday.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc will start Sunday's race on the second row alongside the Alpine of Esteban Ocon.

"You have to go all out and risk it all," said Verstappen.

"I knew I was behind, I'm very happy to be on pole for the first time here."

"Oh my God, I hit the wall two times," gasped Verstappen over the radio after crossing the line in the dying seconds with a best time of one minute 11.365 seconds to beat Alonso by a mere 0.084 seconds.

"We needed to pull that out of the bag, but very lovely," he said as team boss Christian Horner declared it a "mighty" effort.

The pole was the 23rd of Verstappen's career.

Breathtaking: Red Bull's Verstappen came up with a superb final lap to ensure his start from the front. AP

The session was red-flagged when Sergio Perez smashed his Red Bull into a wall leaving last year's winner at the rear of the grid.

Ocon's Alpine teammate Pierre Gasly, George Russell of Mercedes, Alpha Tauri's Yuki Tsunoda and McLaren's Lando Norris completed the top 10.

Narrow streets
With overtaking at a premium on the narrow twisting streets of the Principality Perez's misfortune could prove costly for his title challenge with the Mexican 14 points adrift of Verstappen going into this sixth race of the season.

Carlos Sainz in the second Ferrari posted the fifth fastest time to occupy the third row with Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton.

The Grid:
Row 1: Verstappen (Red Bull), Alonso (Aston Martin); **Row 2:** Leclerc (Ferrari), Ocon (Alpine); **Row 3:** Sainz (Ferrari), Hamilton (Mercedes); **Row 4:** Gasly (Alpine), Russell (Mercedes); **Row 5:** Tsunoda (AlphaTauri), Norris (McLaren); **Row 6:** Piastri (McLaren), de Vries (AlphaTauri); **Row 7:** Albon (Red Bull), Stroll (Aston Martin); **Row 8:** Bottas (Alfa Romeo), Sargeant (Williams); **Row 9:** Magnuessn (Haas), Hulkenberg (Haas); **Row 10:** Zhou (Alfa Romeo), Perez (Red Bull).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

KBA felicitates Mithun
Mithun Manjunath, who won the men's singles title at the 84th Senior national championship, was among the State players felicitated at the Karnataka Badminton Association (KBA) for their achievements in 2022-23. Manjunath, who also won a silver at the 36th National Games, received a total cash award of ₹75,000 from the KBA. Prakash Raj and Kushal Raj, who won the men's doubles title at the 84th Senior national team event, received ₹50,000 each.

Tanya Hemanth, Sai Pratheek, Ashwini Ponnappa, Shikha Gautam and Ashwini Bhat were some of the other players felicitated at the event.

Another win for D'Cunha
International Master (IM) Viani Antonio D'Cunha defeated Rachiraj Shetty to notch up his third successive win in the Akshayakalpa State Chess Championship here on Saturday. Grandmaster M.S. Thejkumar took out youngster Rudra Rajeev to complete victories in all three rounds.

THE HINDU GROUP
THE GAME CHANGER QUIZ
1. Who is the first cricketer to have been given out using a third umpire?
2. Who is the all-time leading scorer in NBA history?
3. Who was the first bowler to take a hat-trick in a Cricket World Cup match?
Scan the QR code to read the terms and conditions.
WhatsApp the correct answers to 89392 83283. Top 10 winners* everyday win exclusive goodies.
The new, redesigned SPORTSTAR
ALL IN FOR SPORTS.

Record-extending 11th successive title for Bayern

Musiala's last-gasp strike does it for the Bavarians, while Dortmund bottles it against Mainz when it needed just a win to claim the crown and end its long drought

Unstoppable: On a day of drama, it was the Bayern players who had the last laugh yet again. GETTY IMAGES

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
DORTMUND

Bayern Munich won its 11th straight Bundesliga title, a 90th minute goal from Jamal Musiala sealing a late 2-1 win at Cologne after Borussia Dortmund was held 2-2 at home to Mainz.

With Bayern needing a win to overtake Dortmund, the forward hammered home with the clock winding down, ensuring the Bavarians keep their grip on the title for another season.

Dortmund knew a win would guarantee a title, but was 2-0 down after just 25 minutes, with striker Sebastien Haller also having missed a penalty.

Dortmund scored two second half goals to draw the game but the point was not enough, Bayern winning the title on goal difference.

Heading into the final matchday, with Dortmund two clear atop the table, Bayern knew only a win would give it hope of a title, while hoping for a Dortmund collapse.

France forward Kingsley Coman struck after eight minutes to set down the gauntlet to Dortmund.

Despite a bright start, Dortmund soon found itself behind 1-0 after 15 minutes, Andreas Hanche-Olsen heading in from a corner.

Dortmund was handed a lifeline when Raphael Guerreiro was brought down in the box, but Haller failed to convert the penalty.

Mainz doubled its lead shortly after, Karim Onisiwo striking from close range.

With time winding down, Guerreiro gave the home side hope, scoring with 20 minutes remaining.

Word filtered around the ground that Cologne had equalised with ten minutes remaining, Dejan Ljubicic converting from the spot, but Musiala's strike again took Bayern atop the table.

Elsewhere, Union Berlin secured Champions League football for the first time with a 1-0 home win over Werder Bremen.

The results: Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 2 (Guerreiro 69, Sule 90+6) drew with Mainz 2 (Hanche-Olsen 15, Onisiwo 24); RB Leipzig 4 (Laimer 10, Nkunku 19, 90+4, Poulsen 82) bt Schalke 2 (Kaminski 28, Orban 49-og); Union Berlin 1 (Khedira 81) bt Werder Bremen 0; Cologne 1 (Ljubicic 81-pen) lost to Bayern Munchen 2 (Coman 8, Musiala 89); M'gladbach 2 (Netz 3, Hofmann 40) bt Augsburg 0; Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Kolo Muani 83, Ebimbe 90+1) bt Freiburg 1 (Grifo 44); Wolfsburg 1 (Kaminski 2) lost to Hertha Berlin 2 (Maza 55, Richter 68); Bochum 3 (Forster 19, Asano 34, Stoger 86) bt Bayer Leverkusen 0; Stuttgart 1 (Tomas 80) drew with Hoffenheim 1 (Bebou 75).

Serie A: Salernitana 3 (Kastanos 43, Candreva 57, Troost-Ekong 90+6) bt Udinese 2 (Zeegelaar 25, Nestorovski 30); Spezia 0 lost to Torino 4 (Wisniewski 24-og, Ricci 72, Ilic 76, Karamoh 90+6).

Tamil Nadu to host Khelo India Games

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu will host the Khelo India Games, Tamil Nadu Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, informed on Saturday.

"I'm delighted that Tamil Nadu has been deservedly selected to host the Khelo India Games in acceptance of our Honourable Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's request.

"I thank our Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Honourable Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur for making it possible. TN Sports Development Department would demonstrate its rich expertise yet again by hosting the Khelo India in a splendid way," Udhayanidhi tweeted.

Official sources told *The Hindu* that dates & venue (s) for the Games could be confirmed by Tuesday after consulting the various government departments.

"The chances of holding the Games next year appear brighter as we are organising quite a few big events including Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament, World Surfing League and the Chief Minister's Trophy this year. Everything will be decided in the meeting in a couple of days," said the senior official.

Official sources told *The Hindu* that dates & venue(s) for the Games could be confirmed by Tuesday after consulting the various government departments

Prannoy enters final, Adinata concedes after on-court injury

You okay, mate? Prannoy shows his concern even as Adinata writhes in pain on the court. AP

MALAYSIA MASTERS

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

H.S. Prannoy entered the men's final of the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament after his opponent Christian Adinata of Indonesia conceded the semifinal match following a nasty knee injury here on Saturday.

World No. 9 Prannoy was leading 19-17 when Adinata lost his footing while landing after a jump return and his left knee buckled, leaving the Indonesian grimacing in pain.

The 21-year-old Adinata, a 2019 World Junior Championships winner, was quickly attended to by Prannoy and the Indonesia coach before being wheeled out of the court.

It will be Prannoy's first final of the season and second since the runner-up finish at the Swiss Open last year.

Meanwhile, double Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu couldn't make the final, suffering a 14-21, 17-21 loss to Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung. It was a second successive loss for Sindhu following seven wins against the tricky World No. 9 Indonesian.

Prannoy was off to a flying start, leading 11-1 in a jiffy. However after the break, it was Aditana, who accumulated points, taking seven of the next nine. A jump cross-court smash helped Prannoy find his confidence back but unforced errors and Adinata also playing some smart shots saw the Indonesian making it 10-14.

Adinata was quick in his returns and played a few cross-court winners and a body smash. An on-the-line return on the backline saw him make it 14-15 before he drew parity at 16-16 when Prannoy went wide again.

Prannoy dominated the short exchanges next to lead 19-17 before the match ended abruptly following the injury to Adinata.

Great Britain punishes profligate India

Press Trust of India
LONDON

A lacklustre India suffered its second successive defeat in the European leg of the FIH men's Hockey Pro League, going down to dominant host Great Britain 2-4 here on Saturday.

Timothy Nurse struck a field goal for Great Britain in the sixth minute while Harmanpreet equalised for India from a penalty corner in the 13th minute.

Sorsby Thomas scored Britain's second in the 31st minute, helping them regain the lead before Lee Morton came up with an excellent goal on the 33rd minute.

Harmanpreet reduced the deficit with his second goal of the day – this one too from a penalty corner – in the 42nd minute, the strike helping him become the all-time top-scorer in the Pro League with 35 goals.

Bandurak Nicholas regained England's two-goal lead with his 53rd minute strike.

The visitors looked to dominate and called the shots in the second quarter when an Indian goal was also disallowed following a review after the English opted for a video referral.

Wallace Zachary's penalty stroke was saved by a diving Sreejesh to keep the match in balance, but not for long.

Heading into this game, both India and Great Britain were tied with 19 points at the top of the table, but the latter has consolidated its position following Saturday's win.

BCCI all set to resume India-A tours

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is set to resume India-A tours, which have all but stalled ever since the pandemic broke out in March 2020.

"We are currently in conversation with England and New Zealand for shadow India-A tours," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in Ahmedabad on Saturday, after the Special General Meeting (SGM).

The India-A programme was instrumental in the senior team creating benchstrength in Test matches, resulting in successive series triumphs in Australia. However, with COVID-19 outbreak halting India-A assignments, the lack of options for the injured key players has been exposed over the last year.

Meanwhile, the SGM decided to route strength and conditioning coaches' appointment at every State association through the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru.

"To address injury concerns of players, we have created a structure where every State association will appoint a strength and conditioning coach and a sport science and sports medicine team. The candidates will be interviewed by the NCA panel," Shah said.

Shah stated that the World Cup fixtures will be announced by the International Cricket Council during the World Test Championship final in June.

While the house authorised office-bearers to form the Working Group for the conduct of the 2023 World Cup, the Women's Premier League Committee, and the infrastructure development and subsidy subcommittee, the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Policy (POSH) could not be ratified.

"We will create a committee to structure the POSH policy. The draft is ready, it will be presented before the AGM for ratification and necessary approvals," Shah said.

Have to ensure we do justice to the hard work we have done: Chhetri

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Go the extra mile: Chhetri feels securing qualification for the Asian Cup is not the end and has urged the team to keep raising the bar. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Qualifying to the Asian Cup has been a very exciting achievement for the senior national men's football team, which now needs to do justice to all the hard work when it comes to playing the final stage of the tournament in Qatar early next year, feels the Indian team captain Sunil Chhetri.

The iconic striker, who will be playing his 134th international match when India begins its campaign in the Intercontinental Cup in Bhubaneswar next month, assured his countrymen that the team will be looking to come out with something superlative irrespective of the opponent it faces.

India is drawn up against Australia, Syria and Uzbekistan in Group 'B' of the first stage of Asian Cup final round. "In modern football a lot of teams which are treated as underdogs have shown us how to challenge preconceived notions.

"One name that comes immediately to our mind is Morocco (in the recent World Cup), which has shown that if you are a good unit you can challenge any team. That should be our target.

On paper it looks a bit difficult than last time (of India's Asian Cup final round appearance) but do not worry as far as our message to the country is concerned we are going to give the best we have and will try to be as good as possible," Chhetri said during a virtual media interaction on Saturday.

Chhetri said the national team needs to prepare with the best of its ability for the next eight months leading up to the Asian Cup, which will be played in Qatar in January next year.

"The next eight months will be very important and all of us have to ensure that we give our best in the time leading up to the Asian Cup matches.

"Qualifying for the Asian Cup was a very exciting thing for the team and now we have to ensure that we do justice to all the hard work that we have done," he said.

Have a settled look

"Chhetri felt that it is high time for the national team to have a settled look with a fixed selection of 11 or 14 players playing regularly.

"That's on the coach (Igor Stimac) to decide but my feeling is that slowly and steadily we have to decide on a set of 11 or 14 players who would be the future of the team. The sooner it happens, the better it is," he said.